FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 DECEMBER 1985

Iran-Iraq War

A joint staff communique reported by IRNA announced that Iranian planes successfully attacked an Iraqi troop concentration northwest of Faqqah 17 December, inflicting heavy losses and damage.

Syria: Reaction to Israeli Statements on SAM's

Commenting on Israeli statements about Syria's deployment of SAM's near the Lebanese border, Damascus radio accused Israeli leaders of deliberately trying to escalate the situation and increase tension to the detriment of efforts to convene an international conference on the Middle East. Past experience should teach the Israelis that Syria cannot be affected by threats, the radio maintained, adding that the SAM's are defensive weapons feared only by those who commit aggression and encroach on other countries' airspace and rights.

Israel

Alignment members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee believe that the government must be disbanded if the Likud blocks progress toward resolving the Tabah question, Jerusalem radio disclosed in a report on their private meeting with the director general of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' office. Peres met with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the radio noted, but no details were divulged of their talks. Peres had earlier informed ministers of his decision to postpone the Inner Cabinet session on Tabah until next week, according to IDF radio.

PLO Affairs

In an effort to reduce the Palestinian presence in Tunis, "another headquarters" will be established in Khartoum for the Palestinian Leadership, SUNA disclosed. Citing remarks by a "ranking Palestinian source" to *AL-SAHAFAH*, the agency revealed that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat confirmed the decision in a message to Transitional Military Council Chairman Siwar al-Dhahab.

Libya: Opposition to French Policy on Chad

French President Francois Mitterrand's recent statements on Chad are "lacking in seriousness and responsibility," JANA contended, and the "clear contradictions" in his stance on French military intervention illustrate his desire to continue France's "hated colonial role" and its "flagrant interference" in African affairs.

Algeria

The trial began 15 December of a number of people accused of violating state security, Algiers radio reported, noting that the defendants are also charged with calling for a change in the government, unauthorized assembly, and forming illegal societies.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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PLO 'Source' on Moving Facilities to Sudan

JN161148 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1032 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Dec (SUNA) — The PLO has decided to make Khartoum another headquarters for its leadership in addition to Tunis in implementation of the organization's plan aimed at reducing the Palestinian presence in Tunis and in response to the invitation from General Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council, to struggler Yasir 'Arafat following the Israeli aggression against the organization's headquarters. A ranking Palestinian source told the newspaper *AL-SAHAFAH* today that Gen Siwar al-Dhahab actually received the Palestinian decision in a message he received from Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], who thanked Sudan for its welcome extended to the organization in this difficult period during which the Palestinian people are being subjected to international and Arab pressure and aggression.

The Palestinian source informed *AL-SAHAFAH* that a great number of fighters have left Tunis for Iraq within the framework of the new plan. The source pointed out that a number of main PLO offices have moved to both Sanaa and Baghdad.

The PLO representative in Khartoum, struggler Abu Raja'i, announced that during the next few days he will recieve from the Sudanese [words indistinct] the proposed PLO headquarters and the general commander's office attached to it to be used for the Palestinian leadership's meetings.

Palestine Broadcast on U.S. Military Plane Crash

JN152002 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation: Zionist Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has admitted that there has been an escalation of organized resistance inside our occupied Palestinian territory. Peres said that there are Palestinian fedayeen groups operating inside occupied Palestine against the Zionist occupation and settlements, that these groups carried out seven armed operations recently in the Hebron area alone, and that they operate at crossroads and in various places in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Peres specifically mentioned the areas of Hebron, Tulkarm, Gaza, and Khan Yunus. He also mentioned the names of several Zionists who were killed in these operations.

As news agencies were quoting Peres' confessions, news of new fedayeen operations emerged: A Zionist soldier was stabbed with a knife in Nabulus and an explosion occurred in Tel Aviv. Hence, resistance is continuing and escalating. As resistance is alive and active in the occupied Palestinian territory, it is likewise alive and active in southern Lebanon and also in the Sinai and throughout Egypt. Undoubtedly, the U.S. Administration has too many reasons to admit the role of the Egyptian Revolutionaries Organization in the disaster of the plane carrying U.S. military men, a disaster which dealt a blow to the U.S. forces similar to that dealt to the Marines in Beirut. Egypt's sons had to respond to the U.S. piracy against the Egyptian airliner hijacked to Sicily and to the storming of the Egyptian airliner in Malta that resulted in the deaths of about 60 passengers and that was carried out by the Egyptian regime in response to Washington's advice. Moreover, Egypt's sons had to express their rejection of the Camp David accords and of what was linked to them in terms of turning the Sinai into a U.S. base which practically constituted a continuation of the Zionist occupation of the Sinai using a U.S. disguise.

The vigor of Arab resistance in the Lebanese-Palestinian- Egyptian arena of conflict is in line with the general trend to solidify the Arab stand vis-a-vis the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism. This vigor represents the correct course of the Arab struggle's march toward liberating Arab territory, achieving the Arab individual's sovereignty in this territory, and removing the evils of invasion, occupation, and all forms of imperialist hegemony.

Palestinian Spokesman Reports Anti-Israeli Attacks

Bomb Planted on Bus

JN131820 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1646 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestinian revolution forces general command has stated the following:

One of our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland managed this morning to plant a timed explosive charge on a Zionist bus as it passed by on a street in occupied Jerusalem. The charge exploded destroying the bus and killing or wounding a number of Zionist enemy elements. Our heroic revolutionary managed to withdraw safely from the scene of the operation after successfully carrying out his mission. Revolution until victory!

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command

The Zionist enemy radio admitted the operation, but claimed that the charge exploded safely while being dealt with by Zionist bomb disposal experts.

Jerusalem Barracks Attacked

JN141836 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestinian revolution forces general command has stated the following: In implementation of our great Palestinian people's will, out of our faithfulness to the blood of our righteous martyrs, and in accordance with the revolution command's instructions to escalate all popular and armed militant operations against the loathsome Zionist occupation in our occupied Palestinian territory, our brave revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland continued their successful operations against vital and military enemy targets.

One of our combat groups was able to plant explosive charges inside a number of wooden barracks belonging to the Jerusalem Municipality in the French Hill area. As a result of the explosion,

the barracks were destroyed and set on fire, a number of vehicles were damaged, and a great number of enemy personnel were either killed or wounded. A great number of occupation forces immediately rushed to the area, surrounded it, launched a large-scale search campaign, and arrested a great number of our militant Palestinian people under the pretext that they were connected with the operation. Desptie these Zionist measures, our combat group was able to withdraw from the area of operation with complete success.

Revolution until victory!

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command

IDF Pick-Up Point Bombed

JN141855 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1645 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] A Palestinian military spokesman has stated the following: A combat group operating inside the occupied homeland moved yesterday toward a defined target in occupied Jerusalem amid the enemy's tightened security measures and was able to plant explosive charges at a station for transporting soldiers in the Shmu'el suburb. The combat group then withdrew from the area of operation with success.

As a result of the explosion which took place at 0715 yesterday, a number of enemy personnel and officers were wounded and the station was seriously damaged. The Zionist security force and police surrounded the area of operation, began a large-scale campaign searching for other charges, and arrested scores of Palestinians under the pretext of being connected with the operation.

Revolution until victory!

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command

Soldier Stabbed in Nabulus

JN151908 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1609 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] A military spokesman of the Palestinian revolution forces general command forces has stated the following: In accordance with the revolutionary leadership's instructions to escalate all popular and armed activities against the odious occupation throughout our occupied Palestine homeland, our heroic revolutionaries continued their successful operations against vital enemy military targets inside the occupied homeland. Here are details of these operations:

1. One of our heroic revolutionaries yesterday afternoon succeeded in stabbing an enemy soldier with a knife in Al-Sa'ah Square in the occupied West Bank city of Nabulus. The enemy soldier was seriously injured.

2. One of our fighting groups succeeded in liquidating a Zionist settler, Moshe Schlesinger. His body was discovered in Karmel forest last night.

3. One of our fighting groups succeeded in planting timed explosive charges in an enemy center on Levensky Street in Tel Aviv. The charges went off yesterday, destroying the center, damaging several military vehicles, and killing or wounding a large number of the enemy.

4. One of our heroic revolutionaries opened fire on a Zionist settler on Colombia Street in occupied Jerusalem, wounding him fatally. Army, police, and so-called border guard forces were immediately rushed to the scenes of these operations. These forces cordoned off the areas and began large-scale search campaigns. Many of our resisting people were detained on the pretext of complicity. Our heroic revolutionaries succeeded in returning to their bases safely despite all these Zionist measures. Revolution until victory!

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command

The Zionist enemy radio reported all these operations. However, it did not mention losses or casualties sustained by enemy forces.

The Palestinian military spokesman also stated the following: One of our groups operating inside the occupied territory set off electronically-controlled explosive charges on one of the streets of Tel Aviv last night. The explosion killed or wounded several Zionists and caused heavy material damage. Our revolutionaries were able to return safely to their bases despite the enemy cordon around the area. Revolution until victory!

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command

The enemy radio reported the incident. However, it claimed that only one Zionist was injured and some material damage was caused.

Voice of PLO Reports Operations in South Lebanon

IDF Soldier Captured

JN131810 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1646 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] A group from the Palestinian-Lebanese national joint forces attacked a Zionist position in Tallat Yatir in southern Lebanon yesterday evening. The machinegun and rocket attack resulted in direct hits on the position, the destruction of an enemy vehicle, and the killing or wounding of a number of enemy soldiers. A Zionist spokesman admitted this operation. He said that the Zionist forces imposed a cordon on the scene of the operation and carried out an intensive search for the joint forces men. However, their attempts were in vain.

Another group from the joint forces managed to liberate one of its men who was captured by the Zionist forces during a previous military operation.

Reports from Beirut said that another group from the joint forces managed to capture a Zionist soldier named Roberto eysterday evening. Reports said that the joint forces demanded that the occupation forces release all the Palestinian and Lebanese citizens detained in the border strip between southern Lebanon and

northern occupied Palestine in return for the release of the Zionist soldier. The joint forces warned the Zionist occupation authorities against continuing repressive measures against citizens in southern Lebanon.

13 Dec Attacks Reported

JN141935 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1645 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] The Palestinian-Lebanese national joint forces attacked a Zionist military position on the (Tayr Halfah)-Jubayl road in southern Lebanon yesterday using machineguns and rocket launchers. As a result of the attack the position was destroyed, a number of enemy military vehicles were damaged, and a number of enemy personnel were killed or wounded.

Yesterday the joint forces detonated highly explosive charges under a military vehicle belonging to the so-called army of southern Lebanon in southern Lebanon. As a result of the explosion, the vehicle was completely destroyed and its occupants were killed or wounded.

Using machineguns and rockets, the joint forces yesterday also attacked two joint military positions belonging to the Zionist occupation forces and the agent militias in Al-Suwaydah and 'Ayn 'Ilmah in southern Lebanon. The two positions were destroyed and a number of Zionist soldiers and agent elements were killed or wounded.

The joint forces attacked a Zionist intelligence position in Bint Jubayl yesterday. The machinegun and rocket attack resulted in the killing or wounding of a number of enemy soldiers.

The Zionist enemy radio admitted these operations, but did not mention any losses inflicted on its men and agents. The radio said that its' agent militias used artillery and heavy machineguns to shell a number of Lebanese villages, causing heavy material damage and wounding a number of citizens.

INTRA-GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Secretary on Gulf War, Ties With USSR

PM161350 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
14-20 Dec 85 pp 10-12

[Interview with GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah by Fu'ad Matar in Riyadh]

[Excerpts] *AL-TADAMUN*: The latest GCC summit conference was characterized by a leaning toward moderation and balance in its approach to regional and international issues, but how successful was it in tackling Gulf controversial issues?

Bisharah: To be fair, it is too early to talk about the Muscat summit conference which ended only 3 weeks ago or about the resolutions it passed, particularly on issues of interest to the region. Ample time is needed for an assessment, but that does not mean that we should overlook the effects which the summit has had on the Gulf moves, which have actually gained more strength on regional, as well as international issues. All I can say for certain is that the summit conference studied the situation in the region from the angle of the delicate responsibilities which the Gulf states shoulder in ensuring their security. The question of balance and moderation is at the heart of the GCC policy. In essence the position of the GCC states has not changed. What matters is the purpose, not the the sharp tone.

AL-TADAMUN: The issue of security is still being raised urgently as the most fundamental issue for the states of the region. What is new in this connection?

Bisharah: Let me be frank with you. There is no courtesy in matters of security. There can be no ideological or economic development unless the security aspect is assured. There can be no question about that. We in the GCC are paying this matter great attention now that terrorism has found its way to our area. Terrorism, which has reached us, and the question of security reform in the region are closely related. I assure you that this matter has come to mean a lot to us after Kuwait became a target of terrorist acts aimed at undermining and destroying stability and security there. The attempt on the life of the amir of Kuwait and the blowing up of public places where people go with their children only mean killing innocent people to serve terrorist objectives. The Gulf states are not unaware of that and they are trying to do what they can to avoid what is happening in other countries.

AL-TADAMUN: What has become of the GCC contacts with Iraq and Iran aimed at persuading the latter to come to the negotiating table and why should not a policy of secret mediation be pursued?

Bisharah: We cannot be just spectators in the region. The fact that we do not resort to the method of secret contacts with Iran stems from our conviction that no sense of vacuum should develop. Our open contacts create the necessary movement toward reactivating the issue in the light of what we consider to be the responsibility of the GCC states to end the Iraq-Iran conflict. We must not despair. In this connection, the inclination in the GCC is that we should not reach the point where we throw up our hands and give up. We must go all the way until the matter is resolved.

AL-TADAMUN: It seems that Iran's policy is to push the states of the region into the state of despair that you mentioned.

Bisharah: It is an unusual problem and should be tackled in an unusual way.

AL-TADAMUN: Do you think that the calm on the Iraq-Iran war front indicates a change in the Iranian attitude or is what we are seeing now the calm before the storm?

Bisharah: Judging by the Iranian statements and the attitude of the Iranian rulers, there is no change in the Iranian attitude. This is due to the superpowers' indifference toward this war. We believe that there should be international efforts to help us end the war. We attribute the international attitude to the fact that the war has not spread all these years.

AL-TADAMUN: Do you mean that the superpowers' nonchalance is the result of their not wanting the war to spread or because there is little chance of it spreading?

Bisharah: It is a known fact that superpower interests are what matter most to them and these interests have so far not been affected because the war has not spread.

AL-TADAMUN: It seems that the process of establishing diplomatic relations between the GCC states and the Soviet Union has begun. Could you explain to us the background of the Gulf-Soviet contacts and their timing?

Bisharah: We in the GCC have a formula for the cooperation of the six member states, but each state has its own views. Flexibility is a special characteristic of the GCC because we do not wish to lay down laws for contacts with other world states. What I mean is that we do not want to be faced with or to lay down set rules. That is why each state has its own national views.

AL-TADAMUN: You have supported the idea of clearing the Arab atmosphere. At the Muscat summit conference did you support the possibility of efforts for the return of Egypt [to the Arab fold]?

Bisharah: That matter was not discussed collectively.

AL-TADAMUN: It was noticed that during his visit to Muscat after the summit conference President Mubarak was treated as if that issue had been discussed. Was that treatment just courtesy or did it reflect a political attitude?

Bisharah: Quite frankly, that issue was not discussed. The decision on it was left to the efforts and contacts of the member states.

AL-TADAMUN: You must have read the Egyptian president's recent statements. For the GCC, do you see these statements as an obstacle to better relations between Egypt and the Arab world?

Bisharah: We in the GCC pursue a contructive course. We are not interested in incitement, which only widens the gap in the Arab world. Our position is this: Do good or keep quiet.

AL-TADAMUN: Were there any contacts between the GCC and Moscow and Washington after the Geneva conference?

Bisharah: There were no contacts at GCC level but there may have been bilateral contacts.

BAHRAIN

Industry Minister on Impact of Oil Price Drop

GF140756 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] Manama, 14 Dec (WAKH) — Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, has stated that the drop in oil prices will shrink Bahrain's general revenues by up to $50 million per year.

In a statement published today in the newspaper *AL-ADWA'*, Al-Shirawi stated that responsible parties in Bahrain understood the situation and were not taken unawares by recent developments. These parties paid attention to the rationing of expenditures, the decrease of expenses, and the study of the available means to ensure an acceptable and flexible level of economic activity in Bahrain, he added.

Al-Shirawi noted that despite the drop in oil revenues in the GCC countries of about $15 million per day, these countries still have the financial potential and money reserves to enable them to maintain their economic activity at a reasonable level during the next 4 or 5 years. He expressed the conviction that the demand for GCC oil will return to normal within 4 or 5 years.

Commenting on the outcome of the recent OPEC meeting in Geneva, the minister of development and industry said: An immediate result of this meeting was to open the door for differences and the eruption of a price war between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing countries. It is clear that non-OPEC countries exploited the oil situation to their advantage over the past 3 years, he said. He noted that OPEC's share of the oil market had been from 22 to 35 million barrels per day; it has now dropped to 16 million barrels. The OPEC countries understood that oil prices would inevitably drop if they wanted to regain their share of the oil market, therefore oil prices did drop from $3 to 4 per barrel, he added.

Al-Shirawi expressed the belief that oil prices would drop to $20 barrels next spring when the oil surplus increases following the winter season.

KUWAIT

Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Visits

GF151740 Manama WAKH in English 1635 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 15 (WAKH) — Hungarian Deputy Minister Gabor Nagy affirmed his country's support to any mediation that would help in bringing about a just solution to the Iraq-Iran conflict. In a press statement to the Kuwaiti daily *AL-WATAN*, published here Sunday, the Hungarian official said he hoped that the Palestinian revolution would overcome the difficulties it was facing and reunite in order to be able to achieve its goals in establishing a Palestinian state.

The Hungarian deputy foreign minister hailed his country's relations with Kuwait, describing them as "an example of ideal cooperation between countries."

The Hungarian official said that the aim of his visit to Kuwait is to exchange opinions on major global issues, particularly the Middle East crisis. He noted that although Hungary does not have relations with other Gulf Cooperation Council countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, "we hope that we will have ties with all Gulf countries on the same level of our relations with Kuwait."

The Hungarian diplomat, who arrived here last night, will leave the country tomorrow to the UAE after he concludes his talks with Kuwaiti officials.

Meets Foreign Under Secretary

LD161426 Kuwait KUNA in English 1453 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 15 (KUNA) — A meeting between Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and visiting Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Gabor Nagy and exchanged views on issues relating to the region. [sentence as received]

Al-Shaheen told KUNA that "we heard with interest the notes by Dr. Nagy on the results of his recent visit to Iran and his views on the issue which is of concern to the region."

The Hungarian official is currently visiting Kuwait in the course of a tour that includes the United Arab Emirates and the People's Democratic Yemen.

Al-Shaheen added that the talks also covered the Middle East crisis "and we heard with comfort the assurances of Hungary to the stand adopted by the other socialist countries on suspending diplomatic relations with Israel."

Al-Shaheen also said the Hungarian top official has emphasized that no change has taken place in the stand as long as Israel continues its occupation of the Arab territories "thus dispersing all what has been raised about that issue."

Not To Establish Israeli Ties

LD161925 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1304 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Kuwait 16 Dec KUNA — Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir received today at the Foreign Ministry offices the Hungarian deputy foreign minister, Dr Gabor Nagy, and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of their presence in the country on an unofficial visit en route to the UAE.

In a statement to KUNA Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that during the meeting Dr Nagy reaffirmed his country's position on Arab issues and that his country had no intention of reestablishing relations with the Zionist entity. He explained that everything that has been said about the issue was "untrue." In a statement to KUNA, Dr Nagy said that he discussed bilateral relations between the two countries with the acting prime minister and foreign minister. He said that the two sides have expressed readiness to strengthen these relation and to develop them in a way that would serve their common interest in the future and to seek other posibilities to bolster and extend these these relations, which he described as "relations of warm friendship." He described cooperation between Kuwait and Hungary as "ideal, clean and free from problems and complications."

Dr Nagy added that talks touched on the political situation in the Gulf region in general. He said: "I stressed our firm position; that we are against any foreign interference in the region's countries' internal affairs." He elaborated that the two sides agreed on the need and the necessity to safeguard the Gulf region's security and peace from any foreign interference through cooperation among its countries.

The Hungarian official expressed his country's full support of the efforts being taken by the GCC countries in this respect. He also expressed Hungary's anxiety about the continuing Iraqi-Iranian war, pointing out the two countries' agreement on the necessity to end this war by peaceful means and as soon as possible.

He added that he renewed, on behalf of Hungary's foreign minister, the invitation to Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad to visit Hungary. He also renewed the invitation to the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Sulayman al-Shahin to visit Hungary. He expressed his thanks for the hospitality and the welcome which he and the members of delegation have received during their stay.

Nagy said that he values the posture of Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad and his appreciation for Hungary's stance on the Arab issues and its intention not to re-establish relations with Israel. He added that Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad has welcomed Hungary's desire to establish full diplomatic relations with the GCC member-countries. He pointed out the two coutnries' agreement to continue and expand contacts between them at all levels.

Oil Minister Discusses Recent OPEC Meeting

GF121903 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Dec (WAKH) — Kuwait's Oil and Industry Minister Shaykh Ali al-Khalifah Al-'Adhbi Wednesday said OPEC's resolve to defend its share of the world oil market was more of a compulsory move than a strategic option.

Talking to Kuwaiti news agency (KUNA) on his arrival here from Geneva last night after attending an OPEC conference earlier this week, Shaykh 'Ali said the organizations decision to cling to its share was necessary to avert further shrinking of the OPEC chunk of the market.

The ministerial conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has also formed a five-member committee to defend the organizations share, which Shaykh 'Ali said could be boosted from current level of 16 million barrels a day to 18 mbd [million barrels a day].

The overall OPEC quota would be left for the five-minister committee to decide as the committee was expected to report its findings to the organizations next ministerial conference.

He said it was no longer feasible to ask some OPEC members to sacrifice some of their individual production quotas to help stabilize the oil market.

The Kuwaiti minister indicated that all OPEC members were now faced with the only option of defending their share of the market.

He said the plunge of oil prices on the spot market lately should not be read as a sign that a price war has begun among oil producers. Whay happened on the spot market was no more than "exchanges among speculators for a couple of days," he said.

OMAN

Sultan on Gulf War, Relations with USSR

LD161803 Kuwait KUNA in English 1701 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] London, Dec 16 (KUNA) — Sultan Qabus revealed that Oman had contacts for two years with the Soviet Union before establishing diplomatic relations.

In an interview with the London-based *MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST (MEED)* In its latest edition, the Omani ruler said that talks were held at various levels between the two countries before taking this step.

"We felt it was as good a time as any, with new faces in the Kremlin to start a new chapter. The numbers will obviously be equal at both embassies and, for the time being, there will not be a resident ambassador because this must be taken slowly," Sultan Qabus added.

Asked about Soviet presence in South Yemen, he emphasised that Oman's relationship with that country preceded diplomatic relations with Moscow. He recalled that Oman enjoyed a "good neighbourly relationship" with South Yemen. He added "We said (to the Soviet Union) the South Yemenis are your established friends and we don't interfere with their internal affairs and we do not allow other people to interfere with ours."

On efforts to end the Gulf War, Qabus reiterated "we will put ourselves at the disposal of both countries if they want to use our good offices."

He suggested that "things should be done quietly and not in the limelight of making a show of it. Better to seek where we can get through to both."

Turning to Oman's third five-year plan to be introduced next year, the sultan agreed that declining oil prices would be an important factor stressing "we can increase oil production but we don't want to produce more oil than we should for various purposes of maintaining reserves."

Education and health would be high on the priority list of the forthcoming five-year plan, he added "because they will never cease to be important and we must go on meeting the need for these."

With the current Omani budget deficit standing around 579 million dollars, Sultan Qabus did not rule out the possibility of "a loan" over the five-year period.

On the subject of "Omanisation" of public services in his country, Qabus emphasised that this was tied up with employment. "I have ordered that Omanisation take place in every establishment and that every graduate must be given work which relates to his skills."

The problem of future unemployment of Omani gaduates did not worry Sultan Qabus at the present time. Higher education in Oman was geared to technicians, scientists, doctors and engineers, he concluded.

Jordanian-Palestinian Delegation Arrives

GF140634 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2020 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Muscat, 13 Dec (WAKH) — A delegation of the Jordanian-Palestinian committee to strengthen the steadfastness of the people of the occupied territories arrived in Muscat tonight for a 3-day visit to Oman. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The delegation includes Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, Jordanian minister of Awqaf; Tahir Kan'an, Jordanian minister of occupied territories' affairs; Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and Dr Fu'ad Basisu, secretary general of the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee.

Meets 'Abdallah

GF140725 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] A session of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning between an Omani delegation led by Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation currently visiting the country.

Representing Oman, the talks were attended by Sayf ibn Hamad al-Batashi, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; Shaykh Hilal ibn Sultan al-Husani, under secretary at the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs; 'Awad ibn Badr al-Shanfari, director of the Arab Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry; and 'Abdallah Muhammad al-Dhahab, director of the Foreign Minister's office.

During the talks, various issues were discussed, including the Sultanate's support for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people inside the occupied Arab territories and the Omani Government's role in establishing peace in the Middle East, and in returning the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Meets With Labor Minister

GF141530 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] Shaykh Mustahil ibn Ahmad al-Ma'shani, minister of labor and social affairs, received in his office at the ministry at noon today the delegation of the committee in charge of strengthening the steadfastness of the people of the occupied territories. the delegation is headed by His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz Al-Khayyat, Jordanian minister of Awqaf. It includes Dr Tahir Kan'an, Jordanian minister of occupied territories' affairs; Muhammad Milhim, head of the occupied territories' affairs department and member of the PLO Executive Committee; and Dr Basisu, director general of the joint committee in charge of strengthening the steadfastness of the people of the occupied territories.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz Al-Khayyat conveyed His Majesty King Husayn's greetings to his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, as well as the greetings of both the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples to the fraternal Omani people. Then the visiting minister gave a brief explanation of the tasks of the committee, which consists of Palestinian-Jordanian ministers [as heard] to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and which aims at protecting the Islamic shrines as well as providing social care. During the meeting Shaykh Mustahil ibn Ahmad, minister of labor and social affairs, affirmed that the view of the government of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id are in agreement with those of His Majesty King Husayn in various fields.

At the end of the meeting, the visiting minister thanked the officials in Oman for the warm welcome which he received.

The meeting was attended by 'Amir ibn Shuwayn al-Husani, under secretary at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs; Yahya ibn 'Amir al-Quyumi, director of the minister's office; and the Jordanian ambassador in Oman.

Confers With Official

GF151606 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received in his office today, on behalf of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee which supports the steadfastness of the people of the occupied territories. The delegation is led by Jordanian Awqaf Minister His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyat and comprises Dr Tahir Kan'an, minister of occupied territories' affairs; Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO

Executive Committee; and Dr Fu'ad Hamdi Busaysu, secretary general of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee.

During the visit the delegation conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to His Majesty Sultan Qabus, his government and the people of Oman. Muhammad Milhim, also delivered a written message addressed to His Majesty Sultan Qabus from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended by Majid al-Nashashibi, Jordanian ambassador to Oman.

Also discussed during the meeting were Omani-Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the means necessary to develop them in a way that will serve Arab interests. The talk also dealt with the dimensions of the Jordanian-Palestinian move in the current phase, and means to bolster the steadfastness of the fraternal Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id asked the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to convey the greetings and fraternal wishes of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan and to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He also told the visiting delegation about the concern of the Sultanate of Oman, under the leadership of his majesty the sultan, for supporting the legitimate rights of the fraternal Palestinian people and all efforts which aim at restoring these rights.

Departs After Visit

GF160859 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The committee delegation of supporting the people in the occupied territories left the country earlier today at the conclusion of a 3-day visit to the Sultanate. During the visit, the delegation held talks with senior state officials.

QATAR

Amir Returns From UK, France, Switzerland Visits

GF151722 Doha QNA in Arabic 1850 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Doha, 14 Dec (QNA) — His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, returned to the homeland this evening after an official visit to the United Kingdom and France followed by a private visit to Geneva.

Paper Fears Possible Iranian Offensive

GF150941 Doha QNA in Arabic 0650 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Doha, 15 Dec (QNA) — In its editorial today, Qatari newspaper *GULF TIMES* expresses fears concerning reports from Tehran on very huge military concentrations along the Iraqi-Iranian border. The paper asserts that if these reports are true, they "signify a serious development in the course of the war between the two countries."

The English-language paper asserts that all of the countries of the Arabian Gulf greatly suffer from the state of military entanglement between the two countries which has proven useless.

The paper warns that launching an extensive invasion, as the GCC countries are attempting to carry out an initiative to break the deadlock between the two warring countries, would merely put an end to the preliminary dialogue the GCC countries have begun with the two parties of the conflict intended to probe possibilities to end it.

SAUDI ARABIA

Sudanese Leader Concludes Visit, Returns Home

GF131943 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar Al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council in Sudan, this evening left Jeddah for home after concluding a 4-day visit to the Kingdom.

He was seen off by His Highness Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of Mecca; His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, Cabinet member, and accompanying minister; 'Isa Mustafa, Sudan's ambassador to the Kingdom; and a number of civilian and military officials.

Djibouti President Arrives in Riyadh 15 Dec

GF151538 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 15 Dec (SPA) — Djibouti President Hassan Gouled arrived in Riyadh this afternoon. His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz led the delegation which received him. Also receiving him was His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general.

Talks With Fahd

LD161729 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Dec (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his excellency the president of the Republic of Djibouti, Gouled Hassan, this evening chaired the Saudi-Djiboutian talks held at Al-Nasiriyyah Guest Palace.

The talks were attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general: Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad Abu al-Khayl; Minister of Planning Hisham Nazir; Minister of Industry and Electricity 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zamil; Foreign Ministry Under Secretary for Political Affairs 'Abd al-Rahim Mansur; and the Kingdom's charge d'affairs to the Republic of Djibouti, Ahmad Bayyari.

On the Djiboutian side the talks were attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Bahdon Farah Moumin; Min-

ister of Industry and Electricity Ahmed el-Hag Fahmy; and the ambassador of the Republic of Djibouti to the Kingdom, Aden Shaykh Hassanz

Departs After Visit
GF161123 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 16 Dec (SPA) — His Excellency Djibouti Preisdent Hassan Gouled left Riyadh today after concluding a visit to the Kingdom.

FRG's Minister of State Interviewed on Visit
LD151522 Kuwait KUNA in English 0911 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 15 (KUNA) — West German State Minister for Foreign Affairs Juergen Moellemann is currently in Riyadh on an official visit to Saudi Arabia to discuss the Middle East situation and the Gulf war. Moellemann, who arrived here last night, will also visit Jordan for the same purpose.

In an interview with KUNA before his departure to Saudi Arabia, the West German diplomat said he will discuss with Saudi and Jordanian officials bilateral issues of mutual concern, including the possibility of reviving the European-Arab dialogue particularly in the scientific and cultural fields. He added that the other issues he will tackle with the Saudi and Jordanian officials are the Middle East crisis and the Iraq-Iran war.

On the Middle East, Moellemann supported an international conference for peace in the Middle East, grouping all concerned parties in the conflict and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

On West Germany's cooperation with Saudi Arabia in the defence field, Moellemann said that there was some progress in that field refering to the recent 'Tornado' deal, concluded between Riyadh and London. The Tornado is a British-Italian and German made warplane. The German diplomat pointed out that his government will allow some German companies, working in the defence field, to negotiate with Saudi officials the possibility of concluding other deals.

On the cooperation between the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Moellemann did not rule out the possibility of reaching an agreement between the two groups next year. He noted, however, that there are political, economic and legal issues that should be clarified by the two sides. He did not elaborate.

Holds News Conference
LD162344 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2245 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Dec (SPA) — Juergen Moellemann, FRG minister state at the Foreign Ministry, who is currently on a visit to the kingdom held a news conference tonight at the Palace of Conferences in Riyadh.

The German minister spoke about the good relations between the Kingdom and Germany, and said that his visit is aimed at strengthening and developing these relations. He also discussed the talks he held with officials in the Kingdom. He explained that the talks dealt with the question of cooperation between the the European Community and the GCC states. The talks also dealt with the Middle East issue and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The FRG minister of state also talked about the Palestinian issue and the efforts made there. He also discussed the Iraqi-Iranian war and the political conditions in the Middle East area, the Afghan issue and a number of various international issues.

Departs for Jordan
GF170933 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Dec (SPA) — Juergen Moellemann, FRG state minister for foreign affairs, left Riyadh today for Jordan at the conclusion of a 3-day visit to the Kingdom. He was seen off by 'Abdallah al-Na'im, Riyadh mayor; 'Isa al-Nuwaysir, chief of the protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and Walter Nowak, the FRG ambassador to the Kingdom.

Crown Prince Leaves for Switzerland 14 Dec
GF141807 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 14 Dec (SPA) — His Royal Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, left Riyadh for Switzerland at 1100 today.

Awqaf Minister Departs for Visit to Turkey
GF151334 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] 'Abd al-Wahab 'Abd al-Wasi', minister of pilgrimage affairs and awqaf, left Riyadh for Turkey today on a 5-day official visit. During his visit he will convey an oral message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to Turkish President Kenan Evren and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal. The minister and the accompanying delegation also will hold official talks with Turkish government officials on Hajj and Islamic issues, in addition to visiting mosques and a number of Islamic projects.

UAE

PRC Foreign Minister To Visit 22-25 Dec
GF151114 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Dec (WAKH) — PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian will arrive in Abu Dhabi next Sunday [22 December] for a 3-day official visit to the UAE as part of his current tour of a number of countries in the region.

During the visit, the PRC minister will hold talks with Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, on developments in the Middle East and current international issues, in addition to the means of promoting bilateral relations.

Omani Minister of State Arrives for Visit

GF151754 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Dec (WAKH) — Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Abu Dhabi tonight on a brief visit to the UAE as part of his current tour to a number of region countries. Upon arrival the minister stated that he is carrying a verbal message to President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id dealing with the constant consultations between the two countries within the framework of the GCC.

In a statement to WAM, he said that consultations among the GCC states are continuing with regard to mediation efforts to end the Iraq and Iran war.

Upon arrival the Omani minister was received by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Concludes 'Brief' Visit

GF152000 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1905 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Dec (WAKH) — Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Abu Dhabi tonight after a brief visit to the UAE during which he conveyed a verbal message to His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman dealing with the efforts exerted by the GCC states to end the Iraq-Iran war.

Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah also held talks with Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, dealing with developments in the region and bilateral relations. The Omani minister of state for foreign affairs was seen off by Rashid 'Abdallah.

Supreme Council Begins Meetings 15 Dec

GF150913 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Dec (WAKH) — The Supreme Council began its meeting today under the chairmanship of President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

During the meeting, the council is expected to discuss internal and external policy in addition to the issue of the UAE general budget for fiscal year 1985.

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Hamid al-Qasimi, minister of state for Supreme Council affairs, stated that His Highness Shaykh Zayid will speak during the meeting on various issues that concern the citizens and on the achievements of the past years since the establishment of the union.

It has been stated that the agenda of the meeting includes three memoranda submitted by the Federal National Council and the Cabinet. Among these is the report of the two councils' joint committee on the economic situation in the country and the proposed solutions to surmount the stage of economic stagnation, in addition to the ratification of about 30 federal laws submitted to the courts.

He pointed out that it is possible to dicsuss new issues during the meeting, such as the Cabinet makeup or carrying out a limited Cabinet reshuffle, despite the subject not being the agenda. He stated that the amirate of Ra's al-Khaymah will submit to the meeting a memorandum on economic issues. He added that the subject of the amirates' contribution to the federal budget is still based on the constitutional law which provides for the participation of every amirate with 50 percent of its national revenue in the federal budget. He noted that the law has not been changed.

Syrian-Gulf Plan To End Iraq-Iran War Reported

GF141719 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 14 Dec 85 pp 1, 23

[London report by Muhammad Ma'tuq]

[Excerpts] Well-informed diplomatic sources have informed *AL-KHALIJ* that during his visit to Saudi Arabia, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed a Syrian-Gulf plan aimed at limiting the zone of the Iraq-Iran war, which might form a basis to end it. These sources added that during his recent visit, Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm took the idea of the Syrian-Gulf plan to Tehran. Iran's enthusiasm for the plan made it rush to accept the invitation by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal to Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

According to these sources, this plan comprises a guarantee by Iran not to widen the war zone and limit it to its current level in return for "the undoing of ties" by the Gulf states with Iraq, beginning with a reduction in financial support for Iraq. They added: The Iranians have considered this plan a good chance to achieve their war aims through diplomatic means. The recent visit by Al-Kasm to Iran helped to solve many existing problems between Iran and Syria, including Iranian oil aid, Iraqi opposition to the regime of President Saddam, and the allegiances of the two main Shi'ite parties in Lebanon.

These sources said: Syria has made contacts with more than one GCC state to secure its oil needs to make up for a reduced Iranian supply. Al-Kasm's stand was not weak when he went to Tehran because the substitute was ready and the problem was not insoluble. Al-Kasm had to present an initiative toward Iran by implicitly recognizing the Islamic leadership of the Iraqi opposition. This initiative was made during the meeting of Al-Kasm with Muhamamd Baqir al-Hakim when he was in Tehran. During this meeting, they arrived at an understanding on the Islamic leadership of the Iraqi opposition, with an endorsement by Iran on the importance of the secular opposition's role.

It is worth noting that the recent opposition comprising communists, Kurds, and Ba'thists is based in Damascus, while the Islamic opposition, including the Al-Da'wah party and its

branches, has its headquarters in Tehran. These two oppositions caused the [Syrian-Iranian] differences. However, it is believed that Al-Kasm's recent visit to Tehran has ironed out many problems between the two countries. In return for this "flexibility" by Syria, there were two Iranian concessions: The first concerned the Syrian-Jordanian rapprochement and the second was on the Syrian concept for a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

The Iranian media had been attacking the Syrian-Jordanian rapprochement, considering it an introduction to involve Syria in solutions fabricated in the United States. After Al-Kasm's visit, the Jordanian-Syrian reconciliation magically became a tool for disentangling King Husayn's ties with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and putting an end to isolated deals. Meanwhile, Iran has declared its support for the Syrian solution in Lebanon —in other words, Iran's groups in Lebanon will follow those of Syria.

The diplomatic sources said: As a result of the Syrian-Iranian understanding, delegations from Amal and "Hizballah" are currently making a joint visit to Tehran in order to resolve their differences. The invitation for this visit began in the Iranian Embassy in Beirut and was discussed in Damascus. After the results of Al-Kasm's visit to Tehran were known, an official invitation was extended to the two warring Shi'ite sects to visit Tehran. Maybe the recent Syrian-Iranian understanding has indirectly helped toward an imminent end to the Iraq-Iran war. The Syrians cannot persuade Iran to end the war but they can persuade it to narrow its zones.

The results of Velayati's discussions in the Gulf states are still not known, but the sources said: It is likely that by raising his voice and reiterating his government's rejection of putting an end to the war with Iraq, Velayati was intentionally trying to conceal the new Iranian-Gulf understanding which puts the Gulf states in a stronger position as mediators to put an end to the tragedies of the Iraq-Iran war.

PDRY

Iranian Trade Delegation Begins Meetings

GF160710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's trade and economy delegation, led by Minister of Trade Mr Ja'fari, which is formally visiting the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, yesterday begun their first round of discussions with Mr Ahmad 'Ubyd al-Fadhli, trade minister of that country. During the meeting, the PDRY trade minister expressed his desire to expand relations between the two countries in all aspects, particularly in trade matters.

The trade minister of our country later described the effects of the Islamic Revolution in Iran by enumerating the very good overall relations between the two countries and noted that both countries are struggling against Zionism and imperialism. He stated that the volume of trade between Iran and the PDRY, which was at the zero level prior to the Islamic Revolution in Iran, has now reached a considerable level. He noted that since the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign trade policies allocate priority to Third World countries, particularly Islamic countries, we expect that by exchanging various delegations, trade relations will increase between the two countries day by day.

During the meeting, the PDRY trade minister was invited by the trade minister of our country for a formal visit to Islamic Republic of Iran. The invitation was accepted by the PDRY trade minister.

Yesterday Mr Ja'fari met with the foreign minister of the PDRY to discuss matters of mutual interest. During the meeting the PDRY foreign minister noted the closeness of relations between the two countries and the Muslim nation and the revolutions of Iran and South Yemen. He stated that these relations must be expanded in political, cultural, and economic aspects and that meetings between the officials of the two countries must be increased. He added that his country, which opposes imperialist policies, most of all United States policies, would support the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Concerning the war imposed by Iraq against Iran, he said: We have continually supported the Islamic Republic of Iran. From the beginning we have been against this war and our position will not change. Replying to the PDRY foreign minister, Mr Ja'fari said: We like to live in peace with Islamic countries, particularly our neighbors, and to act together against the imperialists and zionists and their agents. He added: Anyone who extends a friendly hand toward our Muslim nation will be welcomed with our open arms. At the same time, we will stand firmly against any plots or interference and will never leave the intruder alone.

The trade minister of our country added: Since the victory of the Islamic Republic, our nation has begun its struggle side by side with the people of Palestine. However, some of the Palestinian leaders have parted from the Palestinian nation by making peace with the imperialists and prevented the nation from using its power in the same way the people of Lebanon use theirs against the occupying regime of Jerusalem.

Malta Permits Examination of Hijacked Plane

NC161926 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA) — Egyptair received a cable today saying that the Maltese authorities have agreed to the airline company's request to examine an Egyptian Boeing 737 which has remained parked at Valletta airport since it was hijacked there on 23 November. A technical committee from Egyptair will leave Cairo tomorrow in order to conduct a preliminary examination of the plane. Malta had deferred consideration of the Egyptair request pending the completion of an investigation into the hijacking.

'Abd al-Majid Sends Message to UN on Libya

NC170520 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] United Nations, 16 Dec (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that Egypt harbors no evil intentions and that it desires [word indistinct] peace and stability for the fraternal Libyan and all Arab peoples.

In a message addressed to the UN secretary general in response to a statement by Libya on 29 November, the foreign minister said: The Libyan regime's propaganda media are once again reiterating a series of familiar allegations. They are using slogans that lack political or intellectual content. They are presenting deceptions and illusions in such a way as to suggest reality, for example, their talk about alleged aggression or the danger of an imminent attack.

'Abd al-Majid added: The dissemination of such allegations, even in international forums, is a petty trick to which the information media, the mouthpiece of the Libyan regime, resort when faced with an internal or external crisis. They are annoyed by evidence which corroborates accusations of plotting against the security and safety of states and against peaceful citizens residing there [word indistinct] suspicious actions and reckless [word indistinct] which this regime carries out on a large scale.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid noted that Libyan terrorist plots against Egypt in recent years have confirmed the extent to which the Libyan regime insists on employing provocative methods and flagrantly violating international law and norms and the principles of the UN charter.

After listing the Libyan terrorist actions thwarted by the Egyptian authorities between 1976 and 1985, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that these were examples of the Libyan regime's despicable (?policy) against peaceful states and innocent individuals. This (?policy) is contrary to international law and to the values, ethics, and laws of [word indistinct] and constitutes a flagrant violation of all principles and practices as well as a blatant threat to security and stability in the region. Such actions are also totally incompatible with the principles of international relations and good neighborliness. Furthermore, they obstruct every effort aimed at consolidating security and cooperation in the Mediterranean area.

He added: The path pursued by the Libyan regime must of necessity prompt everybody to be watchful and cautious, to firmly oppose any attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of states, and to adopt all legitimate measures to prevent infiltration and sabotage operations.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid warned that Libyan practices have become so dangerous that they constitute a cause for concern No further evidence is needed to confirm this. In his message to the UN secretary general, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister added that the current situation requires the international community to resolutely confront these practices.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid emphasized that Egypt's basic policy is based on the principle of peaceful coexistence within the framework of security and good neighborliness [words indistinct]. He also affirmed that the Egyptian people and government will not renounce their legitimate right to repulse and frustrate attempts designed to foment instability in the country or harm its people. Nor will Egypt forfeit its right to foil terrorist [word indistinct] and violence.

Djibouti President Confers With Mubarak

NC142049 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak this evening called on Djibouti President Hassan Gouled, who has stopped over in Cairo and is a guest at the Al-Tahirah palace. They discussed bilateral ties and reviewed the situation in the Arab world and Africa.

Leaves Cairo

NC140943 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA) — Djibouti President Hassan Gouled left Cairo this morning after a stopover here last night on his way from Paris to Djibouti. President Gouled stayed at Al-Tahirah, Palace, where he was visited by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak last night. The two presidents discussed bilateral relations, the position taken by the Arabs, and the African situation.

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

NC141901 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA) — Shinichi Yanai, Japanese deputy foreign minister, arrived in Cairo this evening on a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he will take part in the meetings of the Egyptian-Japanese joint committee slated to begin tomorrow. The Japanese official was received at the airport by Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi, assistant foreign minister, who is leading the Egyptian delegation to the meetings. The joint Egyptian-Japanese committee will discuss means of bolstering bilateral relations in various fields as well as other issues of common interest.

Meets 'Abd al-Majid

NC170707 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that an international peace conference may be the proper vehicle for talks among the parties involved in the Middle East crisis. He added that Egypt believes the PLO must take part in the international conference, as it is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. In addition, Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that Egypt attaches importance to a Syrian role in the peace process.

Following his talks yesterday evening with Shinichi Yanai, Japan's deputy foreign minister, Dr 'Abd al-Majid asserted that the participation of all parties in the international conference on an equal footing will help us achieve a just and comprehensive peace. The foreign minister emphasized that Egypt will continue to work for this type of peace in the region, and highlighted the existence of certain elements that could serve as a basis for peace.

Planning Minister Leaves for GDR Visit

NC170725 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA) — Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation, left Cairo this morning on his way to the GDR for a 3-day visit. In a predeparture statement, Dr al-Janzuri said he would be holding talks with GDR officials on the signing of a bilateral economic cooperation protocol. The agreement will cover a number of projects in the fields of industry, agriculture, and supply.

Police, Drug Traffickers Fight 'Pitched Battle'

NC170914 Paris AFP in English 0906 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, Dec 17 (AFP) — Egypt's anti-narcotics brigade today reported the seizure of drugs worth some 750,000 dollars after a 90-minute pitched battle with Bedouins in the eastern desert 70 kms (40 miles) from here. One alleged trafficker was killed and three others arrested, it added. Authorities here have recently stepped up a fight against the drugs trade.

The assault, widely reported by the media here today, was carried out by police sent in by helicopter, after a helicopter spotted a suspicious Bedouin caravan. Police later combed the area with the aid of dogs, which sniffed out several drugs caches. The brigade did not say how many alleged traffickers, from a local Bedouin tribe, were involved.

A court yesterday handed down a new death sentence — the second in Egypt in three days — in a drugs case. The man, Ibrahim Salama Mohammed, a Somali, was convicted of trying to smuggle 70 kilos (154 lbs) of pure opium into Egypt. Last Saturday the mufti, to whom such issues must be referred, approved Egypt's first death sentence on drugs charges, on an unidentified Sri Lankan accused of trying to smuggle three kilos (6.6 lbs) of heroin into Egypt.

Planes Hit 'Large' Maritime Target 17 Dec

JN171122 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1107 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA) — Iraqi fighter planes today launched an air raid on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate, effective hit. Speaking to INA a short while ago, a military spokesman said that the raid took place at 1210 [0910 GMT] today. He asserted that all the raiding planes returned safely to base.

Two Planes Try To Penetrate Border, Forced To Flee

JN171130 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1112 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA) — Two Iranian planes attempted to penetrate the Iraqi border in the East Maysan sector today. An Iraqi military spokesman told INA that the Iraqi ground resistance confronted the two planes and forced them to flee. The spokesman asserted that no material damage was sustained by the Iraqi side from the two planes.

Communique Issued on 15-16 Dec War Actions

JN161723 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Communique No 2,054 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 December 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Great, strong, and victorious Iraq will, God willing, continue to act in a manner following the principles of justice and peace. The valiant Iraqi Armed Forces continue to highly embody the Iraqi people's will and ability to deter the aggressors.

The following is a roundup of our units' activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our heroic artillery units delivered devastating strikes to enemy units opposite our positions in the III Army Corps sector east of Basrah, inflicting large losses in men and equipment. These included the destruction of one tubular launcher, one heavy-caliber gun, one large vehicle, one infantry position, and one ammunition dump. Our observation posts saw fire rising from the hit targets. Elsewhere in the same sector, two enemy soldiers were killed.

2. Our forward units engaged enemy positions and troop concentrations in the I Army Corps northern sector with artillery and other weapons, killing one soldier, wounding others, and destroying one infantry position and one ammunition dump.

3. Our forward formations delivered effective artillery strikes against enemy positions and engineering works opposite our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, inflicting losses in men and equipment.

4. Three enemy troops were killed in the VII Army Corps sector.

5. A combat patrol from one of our forward units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris was on duty when it clashed with an enemy force. The patrol managed to destroy one enemy raft, killing its occupants, and seized one small boat and quantities of hardware, as well as one piece of weaponry. The patrol then returned safely to base.

6. The criminal enemy forces shelled the Al-Harithah area with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 December 1985

Information Minister Meets PRC Media Delegation

JN161300 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1136 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA) — Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim met this morning with a Chinese media delegation currently visiting Iraq.

The culture and information minister reviewed the background and dimensions of the Iraq-Iran war as well as the motives behind the Iranian regime's insistence on continuing it despite international and regional organizations' efforts to stop it, prompted by its aggressive, evil intentions against Iraq and the Arab nation. Jasim affirmed that Iraq's land and dignity will remain safeguarded by the Iraqis, who are defending development and human culture.

The minister referred to the culture, arts, and creative work in Iraq, describing them as magnificent efforts that constitute a shining point in the Arab nation's history and eternal heritage.

During the meeting they discussed ways to promote relations between Iraq and the PRC, as well as exchanges of visits by folklore groups and films which reflect development and progress in the two countries.

PRC Foreign Minister Departs Amman for Damascus
JN161256 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Amman — PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian has hailed the important role His Majesty King Husayn is playing as well as his majesty's efforts aimed at bringing about a just political solution to the Middle East problem. In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY upon departing Amman for Damascus via Al-Ramtha this morning, he said the PRC supports and backs his majesty's proposal on convening an international conference for peace under UN auspices, pointing out that King Husayn sincerely, honestly, and clearly acquainted him with the latest developments in the Middle East.

Xueqian expressed his appreciation for the great efforts Jordan is exerting toward the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the region. He said: I held frank and extremely cordial talks with His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri on various issues of concern to both friendly countries and on bilateral relations. He affirmed that relations of friendship between Jordan and the PRC will undergo further development in broader fields.

Spanish King, Queen, Foreign Minister Arrive 15 Dec
JN151914 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] His Majesty Spanish King Juan Carlos and Her Majesty Queen Sofia arrived in Amman this evening on a private visit to Jordan. They were received by His Majesty King Husayn, Her Majesty Queen Nur, King Husayn's personal representative His Highness Prince Muhammad, the prime minister, the Royal Hashemite Court chief, the chief chamberlain, the Army chief, the foreign minister, the Spanish ambassador in Amman, and their wives.

The delegation accompanying His Majesty King Juan Carlos consists of Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran; Chief of the Spanish Royal Court Marquis Bontkhar; and a number of counsellors and officials of the Royal Spanish Court.

Depart 16 Dec
JN161237 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Amman — His Majesty King Juan Carlos and Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain left Amman at noon today following a private visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Seeing their majesties off at the airport were His Majesty King Husayn, Her Majesty Queen Nur, a number of royal family members, the prime minister, the Senate president, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the Royal Hashemite Court chief, the court minister, his highness the chief chamberlain, the Armed Forces commander in chief, the Cabinet, the dean of the diplomatic corps, the Spanish ambassador in Amman, and a number of senior civilian and military officials.

Husayn Receives Nigerian Envoy, Babangida Message
JN161549 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Joseph Matamatholi, the Nigerian president's envoy, who conveyed to his majesty a message from Nigerian President General Ibrahim Babangida. Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court Marwan al-Qasim attended the meeting.

FRG Deputy Defense Minister, Delegation Depart
JN141513 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1428 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] Amman, 14 Dec (PETRA) — FRG Deputy Defense Minister Dr Lothar Ruehl and the accompanying delegation left Amman this afternoon following a weeklong visit to Jordan, during which he met with a number of senior officials and visited some military positions and cultural landmarks in Jordan.

Prince Hasan Departs for Vienna 15 Dec
JN151036 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan left Amman for Austria this morning on a working visit that will last several days. During this visit, he will meet with the Austrian president and senior officials there to discuss issues of mutual interest to the two friendly countries. His highness will also chair the meetings of the independent committee for humanitarian affairs, which will discuss desertification and ways of assisting fraternal Sduan in this regard.

His highness was seen off at the airport by Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Chief Chamberlain His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief justice, the secretary of the royal party, and a number of senior officials.

Lower House Approves Budget; Al-Rifa'i Comments
JN161757 Amman Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] The Lower House of Parliament met under the chairmanship of Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz today and approved the draft budget for the 1986 fiscal year. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Cabinet ministers attended the session.

During the session many deputies paid tribute to his majesty's efforts to bolster Arab solidarity and his wise policies to equip the Armed Forces with modern weapons. The deputies also praised government efforts to build up the country and support the national economy. They demanded quick action to implement the People's Army laws in various parts of the country. The deputies also called for more support for the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories to help them confront Israeli occupation and arbitrary measures.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i responded to deputies' speeches by expressing his thanks to the finance committee members for efforts exerted in studying the public budget. The prime minister also praised the high standards achieved by the Jordanian Armed Forces which are supported by his majesty the king. He stressed that all available sources and human capabilities will be deployed to the service of the Jordanian Armed Forces. The prime minister said the government is studying the unemployment problem carefully. He also stressed that the government is paying special attention to the agricultural sector. The government will help the farmers by paying the interest rates on their loans, and the prime minister announced that the government will launch a comprehensive development plan for the occupied West Bank.

AL-RA'Y on Expected Israeli Raid on PLO Bases
JN160809 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
16 Dec 85 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Expected Aggression"]

[Text] The PLO has placed its forces in the YAR and Sudan on alert against possible Zionist aggression in accordance with information it has received from an Arab capital. We do not rule out the enemy's carrying out an air raid or military operation against the Palestinian forces in these two Arab countries because we are fully aware of its intentions, plans, and expansion objectives. Such aggression has been expected since the criminal Zionist raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and its increasing military strength and political role have always worried the enemy and undermined its schemes aimed at devouring Palestinian land and turning it into a base for controlling and Judaizing the rest of the Arab land in order to achieve the slogan of the state from the Euphrates to the Nile.

It is obvious that the PLO, with its various factions, has been a target of the enemy's continued plots and aggression to weaken this solid link in the Arab front confronting the Zionist expansion and aggression. The invasion of Lebanon in 1982 was a link in a long chain of Zionist attacks to destroy and topple the difficult Palestinian presence from the region's military and political considerations.

Since the departure of Palestinian forces from Beirut, Tripoli, and the rest of the Lebanese cities and villages, and since their deployment in the YAR, the PDRY, Sudan, and Tunisia, the enemy has always tried to prevent the PLO from rebuilding its military forces and from bringing them back to the standard that existed before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It has also sought to prevent it from playing an effective political role in the international arena to disclose Zionist falsehood and explain Arab Palestinian rights.

We notice that the important role played by the PLO toward Arab peace efforts, particularly within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, and the Cairo Declaration condemning all forms of terrorism regardless of the perpetrators and the planners have worried and embarrassed the enemy, who is trying to prevent this growing role by all means.

Thus, the Palestinian leadership's alert to an expected Zionist aggression is justified, particularly since the features of the PLO appeared in the U.S. military planes' interception of a PDRY military aircraft over the Red Sea. This means that the United States has given the Zionist enemy the green light to carry out its aggression. This aggression aims at achieving two objectives: first, striking at the Palestinian strength before it recovers; second, striking at Arab cohesion with the Palestinian people. This cohesion is represented in the YAR and Sudanese people's embracement of the Palestinian forces and strugglers.

AL-DUSTUR on Israel's Plans for New Settlements
JN140938 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
14 Dec 85 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Zionist Settlement Frenzy"]

[Text] The Israeli Government denied its own false peace claims yesterday when its acting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced, on opening a new settlement in the Nabulus area, his government's intention to build six more settlements in the occupied West Bank before the end of this month.

Although nobody has the slightest doubt about Israel's expansionist nature and open intentions to continue to control the occupied Arab territories by armed force, Shamir's announcement yesterday came as fresh proof by the Peres-Shamir government to all those concerned that it is not interested in the peace process preferred by U.S. officials, nor is it willing to make even a token concession in order to enable its U.S. allies to continue to talk about Middle East peace.

Furthermore, does not the Israeli announcement about embarking on a swift, large-scale settlement campaign in the occupied Arab territory contain many contradictions that require close scrutiny, especially when we know that the existing settlements are going bankrupt, that the Hebrew state is strangled by a financial crisis, and that the Israeli state budget was reduced by large amounts in view of Israel's financial constraints?

Therefore, in view of Israel's general financial situation, this campaign can only be understood in light of the fact that the Peres-Shamir government is fully confident that the United States will cover the expenses of this settlement and pump more annual and emergency aid to finance such aggressive programs.

Perhaps it is useful here, as we witness the settlement frenzy within the Israeli Government, to remember that the creation of a fait accompli and new facts is the policy which Israel has pursued with the Arabs all this time out of its belief that the Arabs would eventually submit to these fabricated facts.

In view of all that, we call upon all Arabs to draw the appropriate conclusions and consider the consequences of our divisions and our people's sufferings in the occupied territory which will not stop unless the Arabs build their pan-Arab stand on the strong bases of confronting all these challenges and rejecting all of Israel's fabricated facts.

Group Threatens To Kill 4 Jewish Hostages

NC170732 [Clandestine] Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] A group calling itself the Organization of the Oppressed of the Earth has threatened to execute four Lebanese Jews it claims to have kidnapped unless the detainees held by Israel in the Al-Khiyam Camp are freed promptly. A statement released by this organization describes the four Jewish hostages as spies working for the Lebanese branch of Israeli intelligence. According to this declaration, they have been conducting intelligence activities in Lebanon, and were trying to form an association called the Committee to Support the Establishment of Israel in Lebanon [Lajnat Da'm Qiyam Israel'il Fi Libnan].

Amal Official, French Envoy Discuss Hostages

NC161524 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Dr Hasan Yusuf, the Amal Movement official responsible for foreign relations, met with French Charge d'Affaires Marcel Laugel today. He discussed with him the issue of the French hostages, as well as the situation of the Lebanese community in France and the problems facing it.

Dr Yusuf affirmed that Minister Nabih Birri is exerting all his efforts to bring about the release of the hostages as part of his humanitarian duty.

Al-Huss on Syrian Missiles, Israeli 'Aggression'

NC161306 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Education and Labor Minister Dr Salim al-Huss expressed his concern today at Israel's escalation of its acts of aggression against our people in the south and at Israeli statements regarding the Syrian missile batteries. He said these remarks indicate that Israel might commit an act of aggression against Lebanon after paving the way with the sort of allegations and pretexts being propounded by Israeli officials.

Al-Huss made these comments to REUTER today while discussing the Israeli statements and the American position on UNIFIL. Al-Huss said: We in Lebanon are extremely concerned about Israel's escalation of its aggressive operations against our people in the south, particularly in the occupied areas and the regions controlled by its agent forces. The latest Israeli statements on the Syrian missile batteries increase our fears about possible Israeli attacks against Lebanon and its people. Israel is, as it has always done in the past, trying to pave the way for these attacks with the sort of pretexts and allegations that Israeli officials are now propounding.

Al-Huss added: The Lebanese people's fears have been heightened recently by the almost daily sorties involving Israeli warplanes and their supersonic flights over Beirut and throughout Lebanese airspace. The Lebanese people's concern has been deepened by the sudden decision in the U.S. Congress to reduce the amount of assistance earmarked for UNIFIL forces in southern Lebanon. This is in preparation for a complete cut in this aid once UNIFIL's current mandate expires. The American decision coincided with Israel's escalation, and has strengthened Israeli terrorism in Southern Lebanon and its position, which hampers the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. UNIFIL was established mainly to supervise the implementation of this resolution. In other words, in both timing and substance, the American stand is as close as it can be to supporting Israel's occupation of Lebanese territory.

Al-Huss concluded by questioning statements from U.S. officials on respect for human rights in the world, support for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and observance of UN resolutions.

Ministerial Council Meets Under Karami 16 Dec

NC161941 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] A Ministerial Council meeting was held in the home of Prime Minister Rashid Karami at 1810 today. The council meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Karami, was attended by Ministers Salim al-Huss, 'Adil 'Usayran, Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt. It ended a short while ago.

Several issues were discussed. The most important were the agenda for the Cabinet session expected to take place this week, the draft budget, the decision to end the fuel subsidy, and the West Beirut security plan.

Statement Issued

NC162127 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1932 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Statement issued following a ministerial meeting held at Prime Minister Rashid Karami's home on 16 December; read by Cabinet Secretary General Shafiq Munayminah — recorded]

[Text] The participants in the meeting assessed the prevailing security conditions in the country and focused in particular on security developments in West Beirut. They expressed satisfaction with the improvement in the situation. This improvement has been brought about by the implementation of measures contained in the Damascus agreement which was reached at the expanded Islamic conference. The participants discussed ways and means of achieving further progress in this regard, so that Beirut may enjoy stability, security, and reassurance, the aspirations of the citizens may be fulfilled, and the security of the Lebanese nationalist arena be safeguarded and fortified against impending dangers.

The participants praised the efforts being made by the security coordination committee under the supervision of his excellency the prime minister and the defense minister and with the much appreciated assistance of the Syrian observers.

They also discussed the critical economic and social situation, particularly in light of the decision to end the fuel subsidy. They voiced their disapproval of the termination of the fuel subsidy as

a means of dealing with the rise in the value of the dollar and its negative effects on the standard of living in the country. They expressed their profound regret at the fact that this serious decision was made unilaterally, especially since the Cabinet had assumed responsibility for the matter. They affirmed their rejection of the logic on which the decision was based. This lays the blame for the treasury deficit and the deterioration in the financial and economic situation on the deficit in the fuel fund, without taking into account all the real factors which together have exhausted the public treasury, paralyzed general economic and financial activity, and reduced the value of the Lebanese currency. It was decided to work with the various [words indistinct] and labor quarters to develop complete programs to deal comprehensively with economic and social conditions and to take the necessary measures to ease the burden on low-income groups and to combat unemployment.

The participants also discussed the government situation. They agreed on the need to try to resume full Cabinet meetings. Since Cabinet meetings attended by all members were prevented from being held in the past because of security problems pertaining to their location, it was decided to demand that a cCbinet session be held in any secure place accessible to all the ministers, such as Duhur al-Shuwayr.

The participants discussed the political situation and new developments relating to the tripartite talks in Damascus. They agreed on the need to persevere in the implementation of the reconciliation and salvation formula sponsored by Damascus, out of awareness that there is no way for Lebanon to emerge from its ordeal expect through reforms and reconciliation. Any delay in this will be at the expense of the citizens' security and livelihood and of the future of society and the homeland.

The participants dwelt on the escalation operations which Israel and its agents are carrying out in the south, and saw in them premeditated aggressive designs aimed at consolidating the occupation, emptying the border area, blocking the way to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, and undermining all the efforts to achieve understanding among the Lebanese and to restore stability in Lebanon.

Sham'un Rejects Proposal

NC162250 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2215 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un and Minister Joseph al-Hashim have both rejected a proposal made by the Ministerial Council in West Beirut tonight to convene Cabinet meetings outside the Presidential Palace.

Former President Sham'un has made it known to the Voice of Lebanon that the Presidential Palace is the official venue for Cabinet meetings. Minister Joseph al-Hashim also emphasized that the Cabinet could only be convened at the presidential headquarters. He expressed surprise that ministers who truly believe that the fuel subsidy should end have succumbed to blackmail by the man in the street.

Karami on Success of West Beirut Security Plan

NC161418 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Remarks by Prime Minister Rashid Karami in response to questions by unidentified correspondents following a meeting of the West Beirut Security Coordination Committee in Beirut on 16 December — recorded]

[Text] [Karami] We must admit that the security plan has been noticeably successful in its first week. I say this so everyone may be certain that the arrangements which have been made and the coordination among all the parties concerned have begun to bear fruit. If there were any complaints, this meeting's participants determined the steps that must be taken to close any gaps. From this premise, a decision was made to designate the Intercontinental Hotel as the headquarters of the special military police. I would like to tell the owners of apartments that have been used as party offices that they may take them back. However, they must contact the Coordination Committee in order to receive them.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, what effect would an escalation of the situation along the contact lines have on the West Beirut security plan?

[Karami] I do not see any possibility for an escalation, since no one wants that. Furthermore, this cannot reflect on the security plan in West Beirut.

[Question] When will the Ministerial Council meet under your chairmanship?

[Karami] God willing, when it meets, you will be the first to know.

[Question] According to reports leaked to the press today, the tripartite agreement will be signed before the end of the year. What information do you have on this?

[Karami] We want that to happen. In anticipation of its signing, we are eager to work under the present circumstances to ensure that all of Beirut and the entire country are secure.

Al-Turk, Bartholomew Discuss U.S. Congress Act

NC131541 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] For 30 minutes today, Fu'ad al-Turk, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, and Reginald Bartholomew, the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, thoroughly discussed the decision made by the U.S. Congress to reduce the U.S. contribution to UNIFIL's expenses in the south by $18 million. Ambassador Bartholomew was received by Ambassador al-Turk this morning in the presence of Ambassador Fakhri, director of UN affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

Responding to a question after the meeting on the reason behind this decrease, Ambassador Bartholomew said: I believe that the most significant aspect to be considered with regard to this question is the fact that the UN forces constitute an important

element of stability in the south. These forces have a positive role to play. As for the recent financial measure which has been taken, we will see if it is possible to find a way for us to once again participate in the financing of these forces if the UN Security Council renews their mandate next April. Regarding the reason behind this Congressional decision, it is important for us to stress again that the U.S Administration and government support UNIFIL. We will continue to try and solve the problem of future financing.

Ambassador al-Turk had received the new EEC representative in Lebanon earlier today. They discussed EEC aid to Lebanon.

Al-Murabitun Vows To Drive Amal From Beirut
NC170751 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] An anonymous caller contacted several news agencies and other media last night to report that his organization, the Martyr Ahmad Najiyah squad of the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun, had claimed responsibility for the bombing of shops owned by West Beirut Shi'ites affiliated with Amal. He said that this group will continue to mount such attacks until the Amal Movement is driven out of West Beirut.

Cypriot Ship Enters Tyre Port Despite Blockade
NC161509 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] A Cypriot ship entered the port of Tyre today and unloaded its cargo despite a blockade which has been in effect for several days.

Commenting on this event, an Amal Movement source said that this does not mean that the occupation forces have lifted the blockade on the port. Israeli gunboats remain off the port, carrying out patrols. However, ships are still able to get through.

Resistance Front Fires at Israeli Settlement
NC161840 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance Front issued the following statement this evening: In response to the repressive campaigns carried out by Israel against our steadfast kinsmen in the south and western Al-Biqa', the martyr As'ad group of the Lebanese National Resistance Front, the Al-Aqsa Liberation Forces, fired five Katyusha rockets at the Jewish settlement of (Jarbij) located in northern occupied Palestine. The rockets hit their targets accurately, and clouds of smoke were seen over the area.

The statement added: The enemy radio has admitted the operation, saying that several rockets were fired at Galilee. Two houses were destroyed and six citizens were killed or wounded.

The statement said that the occupied forces retaliated by raking the area from which the rockets were fired with tank and 120-mm mortar fire.

In its statement, the front called on our people living in the border strip to cling to the land. It promised to continue the struggle until the last inch of our territory is liberated.

PRC Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

JN161444 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Damascus — PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to Syria lasting 3 days. Receiving him were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the PRC ambassador in Damascus.

Xueqian made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he expressed his pleasure at visiting Syria upon the invitation of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He hailed the existing cordial relations between Syria and the PRC and stressed his country's desire — government and people — to bolster and promote relations of friendship and cooperation with the Syrian Government and people in the interest of both friendly countries. He also affirmed his country's support for the just struggle which the Syrian Arab people and the Arab nation are waging vis-a-vis Israeli expansion and aggression. Xueqian said: During my stay in Damascus, I will hold talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' dealing with bilateral relations and ways to promote them, as well as some important political issues in the region and issues of mutual interest.

Xueqian arrived at the Syrian-Jordanian border post this morning. He was received by Dar'a Governor Muhammad Mustafa Miru and senior governorate officials.

Foreign Ministers Begin Talks

JN161953 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1915 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The first round of talks between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian was held in the Foreign Ministry this evening.

Talks dealt with the political situation in the Middle East and the situation in the international arena. Al-Shar' received Wu Xueqian before the talks started and also hosted a dinner in honor of the PRC foreign minister and his accompanying delegation. The dinner was attended by several ministers, and the two foreign ministers exchanged cordial speeches during the dinner.

Prime Minister Confers With Iranian Minister

JN161437 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Damascus — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Iranian Islamic Guidance Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami and the accompanying delegation at 1230 today. Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh attended the meeting. During the meeting, Khatami handed Dr al-Kasm a message from Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and conveyed to him his greetings. Talks revolved around cooperation and related issues that are developing in various fields. Talks also dealt with the current situation in the region and issues of interest to both friendly countries.

The prime minister was acquainted with Khatami's talks in Damascus and expressed his satisfaction with their results. At the end of this meeting, Dr al-Kasm asked Khatami to convey his greetings to Iranian Prime Minister Musavi.

'Text' of Syrian-PDRY Joint Communique

JN141930 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1622 GMT 14 Dec 85

["Text" of joint communique issued in Damascus on 14 December following talks between a YSP delegation led by Abu Bakr 'Abd al-Razzaq Ba Dhib, YSP Political Bureau member and Central Committee secretary, and a Ba'th Party delegation — read by announcer]

[Text] At the invitiation of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], a YSP delegation led by Comrade Abu Bakr 'Abd al-Razzaq Ba Dhib, YSP Political Bureau member and Central Committee secretary, paid a visit to Syria from 6-13 December 1985. The YSP delegation was received by President Hafiz al-Asad, ASBP secretary general and president of the Syrian Arab Republic. The delegation conveyed to the president an oral message from Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, dealing with current Arab developments and the militant relations between the two fraternal countries.

The delegation met with a number of leading comrades in the party and state, as well as in popular organizations, made inspection tours of Palmyra and a number of productive establishments, and learned about the experience of the ASBP branch commands in Damascus and Tartus.

The delegation led by Comrade Abu Bakr 'Abd al-Razzaq Ba Dhib, YSP Political Bureau member and Central Committee secretary, held party and political talks with an ASBP delegation led by Assistant Secretary General Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar. Taking part in the talks on the YSP side were: Sa'd Salim Faraj, Central Committee member and second secretary of the YSP branch in the Hadramouth Governorate; 'Abd 'Ali 'Abd al-Rahman, Central Committee member and PDRY ambassador to Syria; 'Ali 'Abd al-Rahman Khan , head of the Arab homeland section in the Foreign Relations Department of the YSP Central Committee; and Ahmad 'Ali Isma'il, one of the leading cadres in the Party Organization Department of the Central Committee.

Taking part in the talks on the ASBP side were: Mut'b Shanan, member of the National Command; 'Ala' al-Din 'Abidin, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Damascus City branch; Sayf al-Din Fattum, secretary of the Foreign Relations Bureau in the National Command; Fawzi al-Judah, head of the Press Department of the General Secretariat; and Bahjat 'Arus, head of the Arab homeland department in the Foreign Relations Bureau.

The talks were held in a cordial, comradely atmosphere. They were permeated by the spirit of fraternity, mutual trust, complete understanding, and a high sense of responsibility in confonting

the delicate circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing. A constructive exchange of views was made on several important Arab and international issues, particularly the delicate, explosive Middle East situation. The continuous tension in this region creates unceasing concern and constitutes a serious threat to peace and security in the region and world.

During the talks, the ASBP delegation informed the YSP delegation about the important achievements realized in Syria during the past stage under the leadership of the ASBP and its secretary general, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic — achievements realized in various political, social, economic, and cultural fields — and about the various progressive transformations which entrenched national unity and strengthened Syria's steadfastness, as well as about the serious efforts to realize strategic balance with the Zionist enemy and confront the Zionist, imperialist, and reactionary plots.

The YSP delegation expressed extreme appreciation for the progressive achievements and the multifaceted successes of the Syrian people under the leadership of the ASBP. The YSP also voiced appreciation of Syria's principled, firm policy thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad's wise, courageous leadership, which transformed Syria into the main power of steadfastness and the primary backer of the Arab national liberation movement. The YSP delegation expressed its satisfaction with the continuous steadfastness of fraternal Syria in confronting imperialist and Zionist plots and its firm stand against all capitulation plans and partial, separate solutions. The delegation affirmed the PDRY's support for Syria in facing all kinds of plots and threats of aggression by U.S. imperialism and the Zionist enemy.

The YSP delegation praised Syria's constructive role in Lebanon with the aim of realizing Lebanese national reconciliation through a democratic dialogue that will realize justice and equality for all the Lebanese people and preserve Lebanon's sovereignty and the unity of the Lebanese people and territory within Lebanon's Arab surroundings and in a manner which will strengthen the Lebanese people's role in the Arab struggle for liberation against imperialism and Zionism.

The YSP delegation informed the ASBP delegation about the results of the third congress of the YSP, results which aim at preserving and strengthening YSP ideological, political, and organizational unity, expanding its role in leading the PDRY state and society, applying the third 5-year plan for 1986-1990, bolstering national and democratic transformation and developing it within a socialistic framework, and continuing the improvement of the standard of living of workers and toilers.

The ASBP delegation voiced its extreme appreciation for the great success and achievements of the Arab people in the PDRY under the leadership of the YSP and its Secretary General Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. The ASBP deelgation praised the results of the Third YSP Congress and its resolutions aimed at bolstering socialist policy. The ASBP delegation expressed its satisfaction with the correct policy aimed at restoring Yemeni unity by peaceful means and a democratic basis and at ensuring peace and security in the Arab Gulf and Arabian Peninsula. The ASBP expressed its support for the progressive regime in the PDRY in its confrontation of various forms of imperialist-reactionary plots.

While reviewing the situation in the Arab region, the two sides emphasized the Arab nation's ability to confront the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary onslaught and to fight and foil all its results. The two sides expressed their determination to continue joint struggle against all deviators and capitulators to U.S.-Zionist plots in the Arab region and the feverish attempts to Arabize Camp David and sign new capitulationist deals on the basis of Camp David.

They reiterated the importance of Arab steadfastness and the need for mobilizing pan-Arab resources in order to confront the aggressive, expansionist practices, which are being implemented by Israel with U.S. support within their strategic alliance and which aim at imposing imperialist hegemony over the region. They also emphasized their firm condemnation of the policy of separate deals, partial solutions, and direct negotiations which were embodied in the condemned Camp David agreements and other plans which fall within their framework and in accordance with their capitulation policy aimed at liquidating the Paelstinian cause.

They also stressed their determination to continue the struggle to liberate all the occupied Arab lands, including Arab Jerusalem, and to support the Palestinian people's struggle to guarantee their inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, Palestine, to self-determination, and the establishment of their own independent state on their national soil. In this regard, the two sides expressed their determination to strengthen Arab solidarity on the basis of hostility to imperialism and Zionism, as well as to adhere to unanimous Arab resolutions on the Arab-Zionist conflict, including the Baghdad and Fes summit resolutions. They also expressed their support for proposals pertaining to the settlement of the Middle East dispute through the convening of a UN-sponsored international conference to be attended by all concerned parties, including the PLO, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

The two sides condemned Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories, particularly its aggression on Arab historical, cultural, and educational properties, as well as its attempts to alter geographic and demographic features, its repressive and oppressive actions, and its violation of human rights, as well as its efforts to expel Arab residents from their lands and establish settlements on them. In this regard, the two sides expressed their great pride in the heroic positions of Arab citizens in occupied Arab lands who are fighting the Zionist occupiers with full courage and all available means, including armed struggle, to get rid of occupation. They also praised the escalation of the Palestinian Arab masses' national struggle in the occupied territories against occupation and the Zionist settlement policy, as well as their confrontation of the deviationist and capitulationist trend and subservient policy, which is aimed at relinquishing the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights, including the right to repatriation, to self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

Regarding the situation in the Palestinian resistance movement, the two sides affirmed their support for the nationalist and

progressive Palestinian groups' struggle to undermine the Amman agreement and the deviationist and capitulationist trend, as well as to undermine the policy of departure from the Palestinian National Charter and PNC resolutions during its 16 sessions, and to regain the PLO's unity on the basis of its national line which is hostile to Zionism and imperialism.

Regarding the situation in fraternal Lebanon, they announced their full support for the nationalist Lebanese forces and expressed their appreciation for the victories they have achieved, particularly the abrogation of the 17 May agreement that was imposed on Lebanon by imperialism and Zionism. They also expressed their deep appreciation and support for the Lebanese national resistance movement and its heroic actions to expel the Israeli occupation from Lebanese territories.

The two sides also stressed their support for Lebanon's independence and sovereignty, as well as for efforts to preserve its Arabism, its territorial safety and integrity, and its people's right to achieve democratic development. In this regard, the YSP delegation expressed its high appreciation for Syria's constructive role in Lebanon.

The two sides reiterated their support for the struggle of the Arab people in Egypt and their patriotic, progressive forces to undermine the Camp David accords, the separate peace treaty with Israel, and the policy of normalization, as well as to return Egypt to its natural position in the Arab struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaries.

The two sides stressed that the Iraqi-Iranian war has resulted in tension in the Gulf area, as well as in freezing Iraqi and Iranian capability. They condemned this war and the one responsible for its ignition and expressed the importance of efforts to prevent its expansion. They also stressed the need to end all forms of imperialist military presence in the Arab Gulf and the Arabian Sea, as well as in the region in general.

Regarding the situation in fraternal Sudan, the two sides praised the struggle of the Sudanese people, who managed to topple the regime of agent Numayri. They expressed their support for efforts being exerted by national and progressive forces in Sudan for the sake of a national, democratic Sudan which can effectively contribute to the Arab nation's struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaries.

On the situation in the Arab Maghreb, the two sides expressed their strong condemnation of the provocations and threats by U.S. imperialism and the Camp David regime against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, threats which reached the extent of sending massive military forces to the Libyan borders. They voiced their full solidarity with the Jamahiriyah in confronting the plot, which is aimed not only against the Jamahiriyah, but also against the entire Arab liberation movement as a prelude to full imperialist and Zionist hegemony over the Arab region. The two sides expressed their complete support for the efforts of Algeria and the Libyan Jamahiriyah in confronting any imperialist interference in the internal affairs of Arab Maghreb states. They emphasized their support for the rights of the Saharan Arab people to determine their own destiny on the basis of OAU resolutions.

While discussing the situation of the Arab liberation movement, the two sides recorded their satisfaction with the expansion of the Arab peoples' movement in various areas' struggle and their struggle in various forms against plots hostile to the Arab nation. They affirmed their support for various efforts to strengthen the solidarity of struggle among various factions of the Arab national liberation movement and Arab progressive, national regimes with the aim of establishing a progressive pan-Arab front and in order to better mobilize the Arab people's energies so as to confront the various forms of imperialist-Zionist reactionary plots.

The two sides expressed their deep conviction that the vital interests of the Arab people at the present circumstances require closing the ranks of Arab progressive and national forces and bolstering their friendship with the Soviet Union and other socialist states.

While reviewing international developments, the two delegations reiterated their countries' firm, principled support for all the peaceful efforts and initiatives of the Soviet Union and the socialist states aimed at preserving international peace and security and sparing humanity the threat of a nuclear disaster. They condemned the aggressive policy of U.S. imperialism and its perpetual threat to world peace and security through its continuous policy of escalating the arms race on earth and transfering it to outer space, as well as its attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of independent states and escalate tension in various regions of the world. They affirmed that protecting world peace is the basic and most urgent task in the struggle of the forces of freedom, progress, and peace in the world. In this regard, they voiced their satisfaction with the positive results realized during the summit conference between the Soviet Union and the United States. They epxressed hope that this summit and its results will be a step toward entrenching world detente and affirming world peace and security.

The two delegations reiterated their parties' support and full solidarity with the just, legitimate struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America and their freedom movements against imperialism, Zionism, racism, and reactionism, as well as their struggle to defend their national independence and right to independently choose their methods of development and progress without any imperialist interference in their internal affairs. They also stressed their stand by the forces of progress, socialism, and peace in the world with the aim of foiling the various forms of imperialism's aggressive policy.

The two delegations emphasized their conviction that the development of the Arab struggle for freedom, which is opposed to imperialism and Zionism, and the efforts to defeat aggressive, conspiratorial schemes in the Arab region constitute a great contribution toward the general world struggle to realize international peace and security and strengthen peacefuil coexistence in international relations.

The two sides stressed the escalating importance of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement in the struggle for peace and for warding off the threat of a nuclear war, stopping the feverish arms race and preventing its transfer to outer space, working for peaceful solutions to disputes, ending hotbeds of

tension, struggling against all forms of exploitation, oppression, racial discrimination, and neocolonialism, and for establishing a new world economic order.

The two delegations reviewed relations between the two fraternal parties and countries. They expressed their satisfaction with the level of development of these relations, thanks to the programs of action which covered all the popular and social organizations of the two parties and the ministries in the two countries. They affirmed the determination of the two parties to continue work to strengthen and affirm their fraternal relations in their capacity as the parties which led the society and state in both Syria and the PDRY in a manner serving their joint struggle and the Arab nation's struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionism. In this regard a program of action for bilateral cooperation for 1986 and 1987 was signed.

At the conclusion of the visit, Comrade Abu Bakr 'Abd al-Razzaq Ba Dhib, YSP Political Bureau member and Central Committee secretary, and his delegation expressed high appreciation for the results of the visit and the hospitality and cordial welcome which were accorded to the delegation.

[Dated] Damascus, 14 December 1985

Comments on Israeli 'Aggression,' 'Expansion Plans'

'Threats' Criticized

JN161529 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: The Israeli officials, headed by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, came out with a host of statements about what they called Syria's movement of antiaircraft missiles toward Lebanon. Peres said that Israel does not at all want to escalate the situation or enter into a confrontation with Syria. Israeli Chief of Staff General Moshe Levi said that the range of the Syrian missiles on Syrian territory affects the freedom of Israeli flights over Lebanon and significantly impairs them.

The first remark about these statements, which were not made haphazardly but came within the framework of a certain political objective, is that the Israeli rulers are deliberately trying to escalate the situation in the region and increase tension for purposes that will certainly not help any efforts which may be exerted to deal with the situation in the region regarding an international conference and within the framework of United Nations resolutions after the failure of the Camp David policy has been proven and after the U.S. unilateral treatment of the region's crisis has failed to pave the way for a solution compatible with UN resolutions.

If the Israeli rulers want to influence Syria with their new escalation of tension, past experience should teach them that Syria cannot be affected by threats nor will it revoke its principled stands under the impact of any factor whatsoever, especially Israeli pressures or threats. As for the subject of missiles, it is a point against Israel because the antiaircraft missiles are defensive weapons feared only by those who commit aggression or intend to do so and by those who violate international laws and encroach on others' airspace and rights. Moreover, every state has the right to adopt the necessary defensive measures within its borders in order to protect its airspace, waters, and lands. Self-defense is a legitimate right recognized by the UN Charter and international law. The whole world knows that Syria has never failed to exercise its rights and adopt all necessary measures to defend itself and make every aggressor pay a heavy price for aggression.

The Israeli rulers bear responsibility for their actions and the resultant consequences. Gen Levi talked about Lebanese airspace and Israeli reconnaissance flights in this airspace, although it is well known to all countries that Lebanon is an independent, sovereign state, that its airspace, waters, and lands have their own sanctity, and that Israel has no right to send its planes to Lebanese airspace under any pretext. Lebanon is an Arab country which was not and will not be an extension of Israel. Moreover, Israel has no right whatsoever to lay its hands on it.

Any Israeli presence in Lebanon is an encroachment on Lebanon and its rights, as well as a violation of international law and the UN Charter. No one in the world can legitimize the Israeli aircraft's violation of Lebanese airspace. Even the big powers do not deem it permissible themselves to violate the airspace of other states even if relations of hostility and hatred link them. How does Israel then want to legalize for itself what is outlawed by all the world?

If the fear of falling victim to aggression is the reason for permitting infiltration into others' airspace, Israel's airspace itself should then be open for reconnaissance flights because Israel has actually committed aggression. The latest it has perpetrated in this regard was its invasion of Lebanon and its occupation of part of its territory, in addition to its occupation of all Palestine and part of Syria's Golan Heights. It is Israel which is daily threatening to commit aggression and adopting force as a policy and method for dealing with others.

The Israeli rulers' threats and insinuations do not frighten anyone, but only expose Israel's hostile intentions and those rulers' responsibility for escalating tension in the region and obstructing peace efforts. The United States naturally bears responsibility for the actions of the Israeli rulers who enjoy material, moral, and military U.S. support.

No Saving Camp David 'Plot'

JN170752 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 17 Dec 85

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial under the headline "Arab Masses Determined To Confront Any Zionist Aggression," *AL-THAWRAH* says: The current campaign of aggressive threats by the generals of the Israeli military establishment reflect Israel's expansionist designs in the region and affirm that any talk about peace by the Zionist leaders is part of a deception operation that hides the real Zionist aims of aggression and expansion. It is neither

strange nor coincidental that the Israeli campaign of threats should escalate when the U.S. economic and military assistance to the Zionist entity is being doubled, assistance aimed at saving Israel from its stifling crises, bolstering its occupation of Arab territories, and financing its aggressive preparations. The existing strategic alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv is mainly aimed at enhancing Israel's ability to commit aggression and encouraging it to mount new adventures. This alliance provided the Zionist enemy with the most sophisticated U.S. weapons and opened wide the U.S. arsenals for Israel.

The United States will be under an illusion if it thinks that the Israeli threats of aggression can save Camp David from its difficult impasse now that the U.S. plots have failed to Arabize this scheme or generalize it in the region. It is useful to refer to Zionist Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' admission that the autonomy, which was crystalized by the Camp David agreements, is dead and buried.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Hence, any Israeli adventure will not be able to save Camp David from its impasse or enable Israel to get rid of its stifling crises. The experiments of the Israeli and NATO invasions of Lebanon are still fresh in our memories. The bitter results of this invasion are still fermenting inside the Zionist entity with all the implications of a political and military defeat of the entire invasion plan. Furthermore, the path of aggression and war will have destructive effects on Israel. Undoubtedly, any aggression will not be an excursion for Israel. It will have dire consequences because the Arab masses are determined to confront the Israeli aggression and the forces that back it. These masses have enough resources and military experience to confront and foil any aggression and deal painful blows to the aggressors because these masses are defending a just cause that is bound to triumph.

On the same subject, *TISHRIN* says: The Israeli leaders are worried because Syria is making advanced moves in building the strategic balance and is also working to strengthen Arab solidarity on a basis of struggle and to muster further restoring full Arab rights. Syria has repeatedly affirmed, by both word and deed, that it does not submit to the U.S.-Zionist threats and blackmail regardless of the pressures and the methods. Syria does not fear the threats of using striking military force because it has enough determination and resources to more than repulse the aggression.

In the recent past, the Camp David allies employed their resources in more than one direction in an attempt to soften Syria's principled stands, but Syria confronted them on all the political and military fields. The results were more triumphs for Syria and the central Arab cause of Palestine. Syria faced them in Lebanon and defeated the U.S. fleets and marines as well as the Zionist forces of invasion. It enabled the fraternal Lebanese people to realize one victory after another over their enemies. Syria confronted them with the same strength in the Camp David arena and realized more victories. The Camp David plot was besieged and its ramifications were reduced. Syria is now more prepared than at any time before to defend the nation in view of its resolve to defend the usurped rights and the hurt dignity regardless of the sacrifices. Syria's policy toward the usurped Arab rights does not brook any compromises. It is a methodological policy based on a firm background of capabilities and past experience. This background is enough lesson for those who want to learn.

'Strategic Parity' With Israel

JN151512 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Station commentary]

[Text]Gentlemen: In accordance with a firm, specific, strategic plan, Syria is taking important steps toward achieving strategic balance on the front of conflict with the Zionist enemy and for the sake of Arabs' rights, the region's security, and the security of its peoples and the peoples of the world. The current signs and facts confirm that Syria actually possesses an important deterrent force so that no one can ignore it. Although this issue has always been part of the pan-Arab and military course adopted by President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, it has become more urgent in light of the Camp David accords and the serious rift which resulted from Egypt's departure from the confrontation field against Israel. Since then Syrian Arab efforts have been intensified to provide all the power and energy required to heal the rift and adopt a pan-Arab position based on the requirements of the conflict and on the aggressive alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv.

Relying on its energy and its intrinsic capabilities, Syria strengthened its military power and promoted its cooperation with the friendly socialist countries, foremost being the Soviet Union. This enabled it to take clear steps toward building an important military power that will serve the pan-Arab stand and support its goals and trends. Syria, which is fully aware of the current situation, did not regard the issue of strategic parity as only military balance with the Zionist enemy. It has always stressed that this parity encompasses the bases of the pan-Arab force. Moreover, this balance is also an economic, political, and cultural one. In light of this, the political leadership in Syria has begun to build a pan-Arab position on a comprehensive basis on regional and Arab levels. As a result, Syria laid the groundwork for a strong, firm policy, particularly within the general Arab reality.

Those who follow up developments and events have noticed that Syria has proceeded from two basic issues: first, the pact that the current main conflict is between the Arab nation and the U.S.-Zionist alliance. This conflict should be more important than any other marginal conflict, which will serve only the enemy, its ambitions, and its aggressive schemes.

Second, the need to promote Arab solidarity so that it becomes an effective militant solidarity which will enable us to use all the pan-Arab energy to serve the main battle in favor of the Arab cause, goals, and rights. Just as we clearly know the importance and dimensions of this pan-Arab military trend, others also know the danger that this trend is posing to their aggressive ambitions. This was confirmed by a series of attempts to weaken the pan-Arab position and harm Syria. Within this framework, these hostile sides created a crisis in Lebanon, split Arab solidarity, fabricated marginal wars and conflicts, concocted plots against Syria, and imposed an economic siege on it at a time when its

intrinsic capabilities served the pan-Arab position and expressed its supreme goals.

Several days ago, the president of the Egyptian regime disclosed his plans against Syria when he announced that the achievement of a strategic balance with the enemy is impossible. Husni Mubarak wanted to justify the Camp David accords. But when we place the statement within the framework of current developments in the Arab region, we realize the facts. The current picture is different from the previous one. Even those who tried to keep out of the conflict realize that the enemy's ambitions have no limit and are aimed against the Arab nation.

The Israeli enemy said that it has a strong and long arm. The president of the Egyptian regime agreed on this with his exposed call for following the example of his regime. He wanted to undermine any efforts to place the Arab reality and situation in its rightful context. Syria confronted the so-called Israeli age, which has begun to eclipse, and managed to destroy the U.S. role by relying on its intrinsic strength, its firm, principled positions, and the support of its friends and allies in the world, particularly the friendly Soviet Union.

As a result of this, Syria took steps toward rearranging the situation and facts in order to serve pan-Arab objectives. Everybody should know that history does not move backward and that Syria is still determined to remain the fence of strategic steadfastness and the first militant line, regardless of the required capabilities and sacrifices.

Jewish Hostages Held by Shi'ites Named

TA171136 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] A Shi'ite group in Lebanon is reportedly threatening to kill four kidnapped Jews unless 300 Shi'ite Moslems, allegedly imprisoned in south Lebanon by Israel, are freed soon. A statement from the unidentified organization was published this morning in the Beirut newspaper *AL-SAFIR*. The four leaders of the Lebanese Jewish community were named as Isaac Sason, Isaac (Tarab), Eli (Sruru), and Hayim (Kohen-Halala). The group is believed to be made up of Shi'ite militants loyal to Iran. The ASSOCIATED PRESS said that a month ago the same group offered to trade the four Jewish hostages for the 300 Shi'ites it claimed Israel was holding in the village of Al-Khiyam.

Further Coverage of Events Surrounding Tabah Issue

Peres Postpones Inner Cabinet Session

TA161616 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] The prime minister has decided not to hold the Inner Cabinet session on Tabah this week. He has already notified the ministers about his decision. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the debate on Tabah will apparently begin only next week. The prime minister and the vice prime minister convene this evening to discuss the issue.

Peres, Shamir Meet

TA162111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] The prime minister and vice prime minister met in Jerusalem this evening and decided not to divulge details of their talk. Our political correspondent reported earlier that the two were going to discuss relations with Egypt and the Tabah talks. They were also going to discuss other issues straining relations between them.

Alignment Holds 'Secret' Meeting

TA162023 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] A short while ago the Alignment members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee ended a secret consultation on the Tabah issue in the private room of the committee chairman, Abba Eban, at one of the Jerusalem hotels. Our correspondent in the Knesset Ya'aqov Ahime'ir has learned that the director general of the Prime Minister's Office also participated in the meeting and apparently told the Alignment members about the Herzliyya talks with the Egyptians. Mr Tamir himself this evening refused to comment on his attendance at the meeting, telling our correspondent the matter was purely personal.

Our correspondent has learned that the Alignment members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee view Tabah as a life or death issue for the government and that it is impossible to tolerate any longer the situation in which Prime Minister Peres encounters a freeze on this issue imposed by the Likud, despite the quite positive achievements made in the latest talks with Egypt. Our correspondent has learned that it was made clear in these talks that the moment Israel accepts the principle of arbitration on Tabah there is a chance for relations with Egypt to prosper.

Possible Government Disbandment

TA170732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] The current stumbling block for the coalition is the border stone demarcation in Tabah. A secret, unusual meeting has led to a firm position by the Alignment: If the Likud blocks progress toward a settlement on the Tabah question, the government must be disbanded. This is being said by Alignment members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Yesterday's meeting was unusual in that these members met with the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Avraham Tamir, to discuss the results of the talks with the Egyptian delegation on the Tabah issue. The meeting was held in secret, in the room of Committee Chairman Abba Eban in the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Hayim Zissowitz has learned some details of the meeting:

The atmosphere at the meeting in Abba Eban's room was described as heavy. The feeling among the Alignment members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was that the Likud is trying to paralyze the prime minister and prevent any movement or political achievement. If the Likud holds up progress on an arrangement with Egypt over the Tabah affair, there will be no alternative to disbanding the unity government. The meeting was opened by the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Avraham Tamir. He briefed those present on what was achieved in the Tabah talks with Egypt: a package deal including willingness for arbitration, with elements of conciliation, and at the same time Egyptian willingness to increase efforts toward normalization. Egypt's ambassador will be sent back to Israel after the arbitration bill is signed. A summit meeting between Peres and Mubarak will take place. Commercial and cultural ties between the two countries will be made closer, and a joint committee to accompany normalization of these ties will be established. The arbitration process will last a year, and it was agreed that whoever loses in the dispute will be given free approach to the area. In any event, Israel will retain ownership of its assets inside the Tabah area. At the meeting, Tamir said that it is absolutely clear that if we do not go to arbitration this time, it will mean a freeze in the matter. Furthermore, the deterioration will not stop at this, which will mean the death of peace with Egypt. This is the last chance to save peace.

In the discussion that followed, the speakers made predictions, all in the same spirit. Mikha'el Harish, Shevah Weiss, and 'Uzi Bar'am said: If the Likud permits the current momentum to continue, the possibility of a government crisis will pass. Harish said he does not believe that the Likud will make its positions more flexible. However, Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Katz-'Oz found signs in Minister Shamir indicating that he is prepared to make his positions more flexible on the Tabah issue. Shevah

Weiss said: The government is facing a test of whether it can continue. If it fails in this test, we must go to elections within a short time. 'Uzi Bar'am concluded: We must back the prime minister in this matter; this was also the general spirit at the conclusion of the meeting.

During the meeting, its initiator, Abba Eban, emphasized that it was a private meeting. In response to our question, he said: Am I forbidden to invite friends to my room? Ehud Olmert, a Likud member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, thinks so. This is forbidden.

In reaction to the meeting, Olmert said: This is most grave. The impression is that the director general of the Prime Minister's Office is working as a party envoy; the entire committee has not yet heard a report on the talks, nor have any meetings on this matter been set. In MK Olmert's view, this is an attempt to conceal essential information from the committee and the Likud, and this morning he will demand that Mr Eban invite the prime minister to give the committee a detailed report on the Tabah talks today.

Confrontation 'Avoided'

TA171219 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1108 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Discussion between political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and anchorman Avner Tavori; in the studio — live]

[Text] [Tavori] We are beginning with several explanations and clarifications on political issues that have occupied us recently. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is in the studio. Good day.

[Schiffer] Good day.

[Tavori] He has just returned from a briefing for political correspondents. We will describe this briefing as a briefing by a senior source. It included several political issues, and the first is that of the Tabah affair.

[Schiffer] The political source did indeed begin this morning's briefing with the Tabah affair, or the Egyptian affair, in a most encompassing manner, and this must certainly be viewed against the background of the meeting last night between Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The bottom line of what is happening now on the Egyptian issue is that a confrontation between the main components of the government, the Likud and the Alignment, has been avoided. There is no confrontation. The prime minister does not intend to raise this issue and put it on the Inner Cabinet's agenda in the near future. What we will see is another departure by the directors general of the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry for Egypt, for further clarification of all the questions that were up for discussion by the teams of directors general.

[Tavori] All of this with the agreement, or in coordination with ....

[Schiffer, interrupting] If you are asking about agreement between the prime minister and the vice prime minister, the directors general will have to agree on all the issues on which understanding has already been achieved between the two countries. They will bring to the Inner Cabinet any arrangements that need to be written down, both on the issue of thawing relations with Egypt and on the Tabah dispute. This refers to a possible entry into arbitration, and Israel will be able to call at least the first section of the talks, that of between 6 and 8 months, a conciliation process, because the arbitrators will also be able to deal with that issue. The Egyptians, because they have to consider their own public opinion, as the senior source described it, will call this a process of arbitration, but this refers to a long series of arrangements on both the Tabah issue and others that must be concluded in writing by the directors general of both ministries. Then they will have to bring them to the Inner Cabinet.

[Tavori] Another matter is that of the Syrian missiles, the tension between Israel and Syria in view of these missiles' deployment, and the vigorous action by the United States concerning all this.

[Schiffer] This morning the senior source disclosed that the United States is acting at its own initiative to decrease the tension between Israel and Syria over the matter of the missiles. The source emphasized that statements by both sides are not helping matters and can only cause an escalation in tension — or as he phrased it, as soon as you fire an arrow from a bow or a word leaves your mouth, you cannot retract either the word or the arrow — so the source would like the tone of the statements to be lowered. He revealed that a message sent by Israel to Jafiz al-Asad says the downing of the two Syrian planes on 19 November was carried out for operational reasons and there was no Israeli intention to increase tension or change the status quo between Israel and Syria on Lebanese soil. There are also objective difficulties. This refers to the missiles that Syria positioned on its soil, which presents some difficulty in evacuating the missiles or in demanding the evacuation of these missiles. As will be recalled, it has already been publicized that Syria has removed the missiles from Lebanese soil. Therefore the political contacts will continue via the United States.

[Tavori] The prevention of the departure to Jordan of several Palestinian figures has again raised the question of the Jordanian process.

[Schiffer] The senior source had no special news on this matter this morning. To use his phrasing, he said that in the meantime the situation is absolutely unclear and King Husayn has not retracted his promises, but he has also definitely not kept them. There is no clear answer from Husayn, nor is there any clear retreat by Husayn. The situation will become clearer in a few days after King Husayn meets with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Israel hopes to receive clearer answers from him at that time. In the meantime, in connection with the political process with Jordan, as advised by both Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and the defense minister, Israel has banned the departure of a delegation of figures from the territories for talks with Yasir 'Arafat. The source said Israel did this because it is not interested in giving Yasir 'Arafat any edge in the political process because, in the senior source's view, Yasir 'Arafat will not make a political decision about either joining the political process or recognizing Israel; therefore, neither is there any point in the three figures from the territories leaving for Jordan at this time. The source

also said that in this decision he had tried to prevent an internal confrontation within Israel and the political establishment because this would not help anything.

Peres Says Al-Asad Seeking Strategic Balance

TA171235 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1148 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Shim'on Peres has said that as far as the Alignment Party is concerned, the rotation agreement will be honored. However, the prime minister reiterated the condition that the other side, that is the Likud, must fulfill agreements including what he calls actions in support of peace. The prime minister said that he would unhesitatingly work to see that the Camp David accords are not shelved while still in their early stages.

On another issue, Peres believes that Syrian President al-Asad is striving to attain leadership in the Arab world and to realize the ago-old Syrian dream of a Greater Syria. Until then Al-Asad is seeking a strategic balance with Israel and, strategically speaking, the prime minister said, Al-Asad is the strongest leader in the Middle East who is able to criticize himself on tactical matters. In his opinion, the calm that prevails in the Middle East will continue as long as the Syrians understand that we have a military advantage.

Shim'on Peres made these remarks before the 12th-grade students in Lod, and our correspondent Ben-Dor reported from the site.

U.S. To Mediate With Syria

TA161159 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Dec 85 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Excerpt] In the next few days the United States will try very hard to dispel the tension between Israel and Syria. U.S. sources have stressed that they are encouraged by the fact that in the past Damascus has acceded to U.S. mediation efforts and agreed to pull out missiles it had brought into Lebanese territory. The current missiles are stationed in Syrian territory.

The contacts between Israel and Syria were conducted through the offices of U.S. diplomat Richard Murphy. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that even if there is room for concern regarding the redeployment of these missile batteries, Israel has no reason to get "panicky" or to make any drastic move. Political sources in Jerusalem assess that the missiles were moved in the framework of the large-scale military maneuvers held recently by Syria and due to the shooting down of two Syrian MIG's by the Israeli Air Force.

Minister Bar-Lev on Tension

TA162119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Minister Hayim Bar-Lev does not believe there will be an escalation on the border with Syria since Damascus knows it cannot pay the heavy price of war. The police affairs minister nevertheless said that the situation on the border with Syria is quite tense and it is difficult to predict what may develop out of such a situation. He expressed the hope that if a border incident develops, Israel will react in such a manner as to prevent the situation deteriorating into a war. Minister Bar-Lev spoke during a tour of Beersheba.

Military Operations Unlikely

TA161229 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Dec 85 p 3

[Commentary by military commentator Ron Ben-Yishay: "The Syrian Missiles Can Be Destroyed, But The Political Price Would Be Heavy"]

[Text] One can argue about whether the decision to shoot down the two Syrian MIG-23's on 19 November was correct, but it would be a mistake to believe that this was the only reason the Syrians deployed SAM-2 missiles to their border with Lebanon in order to limit our reconnaissance flights over the Al-Biqa' and Tripoli.

SAM-2 missiles require sites and dug-outs prepared beforehand, and indeed, Syrian preparations for the deployment of these missiles began far prior to the recent dogfight; this was part of a long-term objective to limit Israel's freedom to fly over most of Lebanon, and the dogfight was only an excuse for the Syrians to implement their intentions.

The main motive behind Syria's move is political: The Syrians consider Lebanon their exclusive zone of influence, and as long as Israeli planes fly over Lebanon without interference, their control there is not total. To this we should add the military motive — preventing Israel from obtaining essential information on the movement of terrorists and the Syrian Army, and their deployment in Lebanon and in Syrian territory adjacent to the Lebanese border.

It is therefore highly unlikely that the Syrians will be impressed by Israel's protests and implicit warnings, or by U.S. pressure, and they will not withdraw their missiles. They did not do so during the blackout which Israel requested of its media concerning this issue in order to allow the Syrians to withdraw without losing face, and it is unlikely that they will do so now. The declarations issued by Israeli leaders on the need to remain calm doubtlessly strengthen the Syrians' feeling that an Israeli military operation is not near.

We must say that this time the Syrians have managed to pose a serious dilemma to Israel:

— On the one hand, Israel cannot afford to forego the up-to-date information it obtains from its reconnaissance flights over Lebanon.

— On the other hand, any military operation to destroy the missiles can cause an escalation in the battle to control Lebanon's airspace. This might include, for example, Syrian use of the SAM-5's, with Soviet approval. (These missiles, if introduced,

can threaten our planes at distances of hundreds of kilometers, even over Israeli territory.)

This escalation might develop into an aerial war of attrition, something both sides do not now need.

In this connection we should point to two basic facts:

— One: The destruction of the missile sites in their present condition poses no military problems for Israel. However, a military operation against targets in Syrian sovereign territory would cause us considerable difficulties in the international arena. In this case we might also be charged with intentionally sabotaging the peace process and with being responsible for the rapprochement between Husayn and Al-Asad.

— Two: Israeli planes can still fly — and actually do fly — over west Lebanon, and we have other methods to obtain information previously obtained by the "direct" flights over the Al-Biqa', even if it is at a lower quality.

Therefore, it stands to reason that for the time being Israel will exhaust all secret or public political steps before resorting, if at all, to military methods.

Syria Increases Support of Terror

TA161309 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Dec 85 p 15

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] Syrian intelligence officers in southern Lebanon have in the last few weeks increased their support and encouragement of terrorist squads launching attacks against the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] and the IDF.

An interrogation of most of the terrorist squads uncovered in the last few weeks showed that senior Syrian intelligence officers were behind the planning.

Senior military sources emphasized that this is not related to Syrian policy in other areas bordering Israel and that the purpose of these activities is to prevent the ASL from gaining a foothold in the security strip and from cooperating with Israel in order to create tension along Israel's northern border.

Groups of Shi'ites from villages outside the security strip in southern Lebanon have recently met with the Shi'ite leadership in Beirut to demand a halt to Amal operations against Israel.

The groups met Shi'ite leader Nabih Birri and Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qablan and urged them to abstain from attacking the ASL and Israel, attacks that are at the expense of the inhabitants of southern Lebanon. They cautioned that if the attacks do not stop, Amal will lose the support of the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon and the security strip.

Shi'ite clergymen in the security strip have in the last few weeks begun expressing their opposition to launching attacks on the security strip from southern Lebanon and to any form of cooperation with the Palestinians. On several occasions the clergymen have even come out in support of enlisting Shi'ites in the ASL.

Senior Shi'ite notables in southern Lebanon recently came out against cooperation with the various PLO organizations for fear that the latter might return to southern Lebanon. It has been learned that cooperation between Amal and the Palestinian organizations has been only on a local basis in the last few months and contravenes the official line embraced by Amal, which adheres meticulously to the accords reached with Israel in the past.

In the last few weeks, large quantities of weapons, ammunition, and grenades have been found on roadsides in the security strip. These weapons come from local inhabitants who have begun cleaning their houses in fear of the reaction of the ASL and their village leaders.

Senior sources in southern Lebanon yesterday conveyed to our correspondent their concern about the cut in Israeli funds to the population of the security strip.

Peres Repeats Need To Improve Relations With Egypt

TA161153 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has reiterated that the next stage of the peace process in the region is to improve relations with Egypt. We are striving for a package deal that will solve all the disputed issues between the two countries; the first peace accord in the Middle East should not be allowed to become the last. Mr Peres made these remarks this morning in a meeting at his office in Jerusalem with Mr Timothy Renton, the British minister of state for foreign affairs who is now visiting Israel. The guest said that Mr Peres' visit, scheduled for the end of next month, is being awaited in Britain.

Regrets Halt to Palestinian Visit

TA161045 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Dec 85 p 2

[Report by Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpts] A delegation of Palestinian notables which was scheduled to depart for Amman today in an attempt to convince the PLO leadership to accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338 has decided to cancel its trip due to the reaction of the Israeli authorities. Security sources said yesterday that "we cannot permit these people to travel to Jordan after they have publicly announced their intention to meet 'Arafat and other PLO leaders there for consultations."

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres expressed regret over the defense establishment's decision to prevent the departure of the delegation. This was stated by the prime minister's associates yesterday. They said Peres believes that we should view with favor any contacts that could advance negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which does not include outspo-

ken PLO members. The associates said that Peres had also welcomed the departure of such delegations in the past.

Shamir Says Relations With Jordan Worsening

TA161208 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1051 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the state of affairs between Israel and Jordan is worrisome and that instead of improving, he believes the situation has become worse. In a meeting with British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Timothy Renton, Shamir said he was worried about the rapprochement between Jordan and Syria, especially in view of the redeployment of the Syrian missiles.

Shamir drew the guest's attention to the remarks made in Jerusalem yesterday by Hanna Sanyurah, who is slated to be a member of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the political negotiations, during a simulation game on the peace process. Sanyurah said that he demands that Israel withdraw to the borders of the partition plan. According to Shamir, even moderate Israelis would not even in their worst nightmares conceive of returning to the partition plan borders. The foreign minister's remarks were reported by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel.

UK's Renton Cancels E. Jerusalem Meeting With Arens

TA162108 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Timothy Renton who is currently visiting Israel today canceled a meeting with Minister Arens when he learned that the minister's office is located in East Jerusalem. Renton met with the prime minister and vice prime minister and heard from them about the state of relations with Egypt and the chances for negotiations with Jordan.

Katyushas Fall on Security Zone; No Casualties

TA171054 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1045 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] This morning two katyusha rockets were fired at positions belonging to the army of southern Lebanon near Bint Jubayl. No one was injured. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the rockets were fired from the north of the security strip, an area where joint squads of Amal organization personnel and Palestinian terrorists are now active.

ALGERIA

Security Violation Defendents Go On Trial

LD161425 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] The state security court opened its second session for 1985 under its president, (Abdelaziz Ba'd). The session will be devoted to hearing the cases of (Erbini Ali Fouzi) and others accused with him of violating state security. The morning hearing of the 1st day was devoted to a reading of the indictment charge that lists the acts of which the accused are charged, that is, jeopardizing state security and calling for a change in the government, unauthorized assembly in the streets, and forming unlawful societies.

The afternoon session was devoted to the interrogation of the accused in the presence of their relatives, defense lawyers, lawyers delegated by the international commissioner on human rights, and representatives of the international press accredited to Algeria. The presence of representatives of the international commission on human rights and representatives of Amnesty International was noted.

The state security court will resume its work tomorrow.

Information Minister Receives PRC Media Official

LD161715 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] Yesterday at his ministry headquarters, Brother Bachir Rouis, alternate member of the Political Bureau and minister of information, received the PRC deputy minister of radio and television and members of the delegation which is accompanying him. He is paying a visit to our country for several days. During the meeting the two sides held talks on the prospects of developing friendly relations between the two countries and bolstering cooperation between them in the information sector and particularly in the radio and television field.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Kurdish Democratic Party Official

LD161558 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] The leader of the revolution today received a Kurdish Democratic Party delegation, led by brother Idris al-Barzani, member of that party's Political Bureau.

Al-Qadhdhafi Tours Numerous Factories 15 Dec

LD161749 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Dec 85

[tExt] The brother leader of the revolution this afternoon paid another visit to those who are changing words into iron; graduates of technical schools and soldiers of the armed forces in workshops that have been recently established and are satisfying the needs of the Armed Forces and various other sectors for spare parts and equipment.

The brother leader of the revolution's visit included the following factories: a reinforced panelling [hushuwwat musafahah] factory, a fuse factory, an electrical and household goods factory, a medals, orders, rank symbols, and armed forces units symbols factory, a metal melting and alloy making factory, an air conditioning and air extraction plant, an aerial manufacturing plant, and a tailoring workship. The brother leader of the revolution was accompanied by Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, the secretary of the General People's Committee, and the secretary of the general people's committee of light industries.

YAR's Al-Asbahi Leads Delegation to Tripoli

LD162301 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Brother Muhammad Ahmad al-Asbahi, secretary of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Conference in the Yemen Arab Republic, arrived this evening in Tripoli leading a delegation of the Permanent Committee for a visit to Socialist People's Libyan arab jamahiriyah.

Brother Muhammad al-Asbahi mwde a statement to JANA in which he expressed pleasure at visiting the Jamahiriyah. He said, I am carrying a message from Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother the leader of the revolution, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, concerning bilateral relations between the two sister countries and the latest Arab and international developments. Brother Al-Asbahi said that while in the Jamahiriyah he will attend some meetings of the basic people's conferences in order to continue the meetings between the two sister countries in the service of the objectives of the two fraternal peoples and of the Arab nation.

'Contradictions' Seen in Mitterrand Remarks

LD161141 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Dec (JANA) — In the last few days French President Francois Mitterrand has made several press statements on the question of Chad and other African issues. These statements have revealed great contradictions in the stances of the French president, which appear to be lacking in seriousness and responsibility. While the French president has repeatedly insisted that France is not the gendarme of Africa, that it has no joint defense agreements with Chad, and that he has no intention of intervening militarily in the problem of Chad, we see him stating that France accepts no revision of what he calls the balance in Chad. This time he underscored his statement by sending his military reconnaissance aircraft to overfly northern Chad and by asking his military bases in Tunisia and the Central African Republic to monitor what he called Libyan movements in Chad.

The JANA political editor has commented on Mitterrand's contradictory statements, saying: The clear contradictions in the French president's statements reveals his desire for France to continue its hated colonial role and for its flagrant interference

in the affairs of the African Continent to continue. France, which aspires to see the African states as protectorates in an empire ruled from Paris, believes that the African Continent suffers from a vacuum, particularly in Chad; Mitterrand believes that France should fill this alleged vacuum even though there is no common border between France and Chad. The editor stressed that if there is a vacuum in Africa then the Africans should fill such a vacuum, and if there is a vacuum in Chad then Chad's African neighbors are more entitled to fill such a vacuum than the foreign colonialists. As for France and its President Mitterrand, his statements raise more than one question and offer more than one contradiction — has the French president decided to intervene in Chad, or will he remain committed to his declaration that France does not perform the role of gendarme in Africa?

MAURITANIA

President Announces 1986 Regional Elections

LD122115 Paris International Service in French 2030 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The Mauritanian head of state, Lieutenant Colonel Ould Taya, celebrated the first anniversary of his taking power today. He announced on this occasion that regional elections will take place in Mauritania during the second half of 1986. The Mauritanian president also announced an amnesty, from which the former head of state, Moktar Ould Daddah benefits in particular. He is authorized to return to Mauritania.

SUDAN

Premier Comments on Elections, Other Issues

PM170940 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Dec 85 p 6

[Jean Gueyras report: "The General Elections Will be Held As Planned Before April 1986"]

[Text] While in Paris as head of the Sudanese ministerial delegation to the 12th Franco-African summit Khartoum government chief Daf'allah al-Jazuli told us that the general elections will be held before April 1986 as planned, despite the state of insecurity which prevails in the south of the country. "The election will take place as usual in most of the national territory. The events in the south should in no way hinder the progress of democracy in Sudan."

Mr al-Jazuli played down the importance of the dissidence in the south of the country, stating that no major city or important district is not under the government forces' control. He admitted that the forces of Colonel John Garang, head of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, are still active, taking advantage of the "south's geographical configuration which lends itself to guerrilla warfare." "at all events," he continued, "there are many signs that we are moving in the right direction toward a peaceful solution."

For instance, according to Mr al-Jazuli, Col Garang has agreed, following an exchange of letters, to take part in a national reconciliation conference with the central government, but without answering the proposal that this meeting be held in early January. "As far as we are concerned," the prime minister said, "we have not set any preconditions for this meeting: Everything can be discussed aside from the country's unity, which, moreover, nobody is calling into question." He hinted that Col Garang has expressed several reservations about the provisional military council which is governing the country and the Shari'a (Islamic law) which he wants to see abrogated before the start of negotiations.

Mr al-Jazuli thinks that the Shari'a is a very controversial problem in Sudan. Some people, he says, want abrogation pure and simple, others suggest that it should be amended or ratified with some reservations. "In any case there is no question of applying it as it was under the Numayri regime, in other words in violation of the very principles of Islam. What the former head of state wanted had nothing to do with the application of Islamic law."

"Nobody Now Dies of Starvation"

Referring to his country's relations with Libya, the prime minister denied that Khartoum has concluded a military pact with Tripoli. "We have quite simply asked Libya to supply us with light arms and the means of ensuring our army's training. Sudan is a sovereign state and is consequently free to choose its international relations. But we have not rid ourselves of one master to fall under the yoke of another."

While refusing to engage in "polemics" with the United States, Mr al-Jazuli "does not understand" why Washington advised its nationals against staying in Sudan since security supposedly does not prevail in the country. "If they mean absolute security, we readily admit it. But where is there absolute security? Not even in the United States!" Mr al-Jazuli said that during his visit to the United States last October he asked the American officials to intervene with the IMF to ask it to facilitate the granting of new credit to Sudan: "They listened to us with interest and sympathy and we are still counting on Washington's support."

Turning next to his country's relations with Ethiopia, Mr al-Jazuli stressed that, unlike the Libyans who have completely stopped their aid to Col Garang's forces, the Ethiopians have placed their radio and training camps at the rebels' disposal and are supplying them with arms and munitions, whereas Sudan is not helping the Eritreans and Tigreans "as fighters" but is merely giving them asylum "as refugees" and solely out of humanitarian concern. "We would be very happy if these refugees returned to Ethiopia. A million refugees is a heavy burden to a country like ours, which is facing many political and economic problems."

Mr al-Jazuli said that the last harvest was good as a result of measures taken by the government and the heavy rain in some part of the country. But "there are regions in which it has been very bad. That is why we have asked for international aid to enable these deprived regions to buy the wheat necessary to the survival of their inhabitants." "In any case," he concluded, "there is considerable progress with regard to the famine. Nobody is now dying of starvation in Sudan."

Police Wound Two Demonstrators in Al-Muglad

JN161444 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Al-Muglad, Sudan, 16 Dec (SUNA) — Two people were wounded when police opened fire on demonstrators in Al-Muglad yesterday morning. A responsible source has explained that the police were obliged to open fire on demonstrators protesting against a delegation of the National Islamic Front [NIF] which is currently visiting the area. He added that the demonstrators, who carried placards hostile to the NIF, as well as posters showing severed hands, caused some unrest.

Radio SPLA Reports Successes Against Sudanese Forces

EA161607 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Radio SPLA has learnt that a clash occurred on 13 December 1985 between units of Shark Battalion under the command ofMajor Bona Abang Dhol and Siwar al-Dhahab's forces at Yirol in Bahr el Ghazal. According to Radio SPLA correspondent accompanying Shark Battalion, SPLA forces engaged the enemy after it had been forced to venture out of its garrison in search of food. The fight, which lasted from 0800 am up to 1100 before noon resulted in the total repulse of the enemy forces after they had sustained heavy casualties.

In a later development, SPLA forces of Shark Battalion under the command of Maj Bona Abang forced Siwar al-Dhahab's forces in Yirol to abandon their garrison and to seek refuge at Yirol civil hospital. Our correspondent in the area said that government soldiers quit their barracks after intense shelling by SPLA units in response to earlier government troops provocations. Government soldiers, the correspondent said, had carried out a series of attacks on SPLA positions about six miles away from the army garrison. The enemy had suffered considerable casualties in both men and material.

Polisario Congress On Libya End Moroccan Alliance

LD161213 Algiers APS in English 1502 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text]SADR (L.T.), 14/12/85 (APS) — The 6th Polisario Front General Congress expressed satisfaction over the solidarity and the support voiced by the international community. The congress also invited the Libyan leadership to end its alliance with Hassan II. The political resolution also denounced France and Spain, former colonial powers in the region, for their partiality concerning to the Saharan people's cause.

Policy, Objectives Outlined

LD161228 Algiers APS in English 1151 GMT 15 Dec 85

["The 6th Polisario Front Congress: Serenity" — APS headline]

[Text] Algiers, 15 Dec 85 (APS) — The 6th Congress of the Polisario Front which was held from December 6 to 10 took important decisions which will certainly contribute in the consolidation of the Saharan revolution.

The Polisario Front has managed to overcome all the problems created by a hostile international environment. The fighters of the Saharan People's Liberation Army answered to the war of walls by an attrition war. The harassing operations have had a great psychological impact on the Moroccan soldiers. At the diplomatic level, Morocco's isolation is increasing. Even its latest attempt in the French-African conference in Paris failed. Add to that the failure in the U.N. where as S.A.D.R. is increasing its place on the international scene as it has up till now been recognized by 63 countries.

The 6th Congress of the Polisario Front concluded that there is no possible solution in the short term with Hassan II, the Saharan Ministry of Education Mohamed Lamine Ould Ahmed said. "We are for the great Maghreb and not for the great Morocco, he remarked. If the congress opened the doors for Morocco for negotiations, (?these) shut the door to the U.N."

This is one more contradiction of the Moroccan policy. In 1976, Rabat said the U.N. have nothing to do with the Western Sahara question which is, according to it, in the OAU prerogatives. After the African organization set up a peace plan in its 19th summit, the Moroccan regime turns its back to it and tries again to fool the U.N. which finally declared unacceptable its proposals.

The 6th congress drew the lessons of these evolutions and defined objectives to be reached. It decided the reinforcement of the armed struggle in order to reach independence. In this respect, 1986 will certainly be an extremely hot year on the battle field.

Message to OAU, Others

LD161234 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] The 6th Congress of the Polisario Front addressed two messages to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf who is current chairman of the OAU and to European parliaments. A statement issued by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Ministry of Information and Culture today in the liberated territory said that the 6th congress lauded the ceaseless efforts the OAU had made for the liberation of the African Continent from the hegemony and colonialism from which African nations still suffer.

The message also expressed the extent of the Saharan people's commitment to the OAU adding that the inclusion of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic into OAU membership, and electing it to the acting chairmanship of the organization are considered a true expression of the rejection of the African Continent of the expansionist and oppressive policy followed by Morocco against the Saharan people which, the message explains, conflict with peaceful solutions to the Saharan issue.

In its message to the European parliaments the 6th Congress of the Polisario Front called on European parliaments to endeavor to enlist their governments support for the Saharan peolple's self-determination and to urge the Moroccan regime to enter into direct negotiations with the Polisario Front.

It is noteworthy that the 6th Congress of the Polisario Front was held in the liberated territory from 8 to 10 December.

TUNISIA

U.S. Reportedly To Supply New Arms to Tunis 'Soon'

LD161448 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1414 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Tunis, 16 Dec (KUNA) — A report published here today stated that the United States will soon supply Tunisia with new sophisticated arms. *AL-SABAH* added that "the supplying of these arms will fall within the framework of the existing cooperation between the two countries and the U.S. commitment to compensate Tunisia following the perfidious Israeli raid on it."

KENYA

Moi Announces Uganda Peace Agreement Concluded

Moi Statement

EA170709 Nairobi Domestic Service in English
0620 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Statement by President Daniel arap Moi on 17 December; place not given — live or recorded]

[Text] It gives me great pleasure to announce, in particular to my brothers and sisters in Uganda, that after a series of peace talks held here in Nairobi over the last 4 months both the Government of Uganda and the National Resistance Movement [NRM] have successfully negotiated and signed an agreement marking the end of armed conflict between the two parties and also covering other areas of immediate and future concern [applause] heralding the beginning of a new era of peace, stability, and tranquillity in Uganda.[applause]

I have repeatedly stated in the past that carnage and insecurity which have bled Uganda for close to 20 years has to be arrested by conscious human efforts so that Ugandans (?at last) can have a new lease of life, with security for all [word indistinct]. The wanton use of violence has shaken the [word indistinct] society and rendered every government ineffective, making Uganda a country in perpetual despair at all levels. War in Uganda cannot bring history or glory to any one group. It can only prolong the suffering of the people and the wastage of human and other resources which could be put into better use for a better Uganda. Neither the labors of Ugandans nor the international community would have remained forever indifferent to this sad state of affairs.

The new understanding between both parties based on mutual trust transcending the trappings of tribalism, regionalism, and religious differences is a clear manifestation of the dawning of a new era of peace in Uganda based on tolerance and conscious human efforts to build a strong united and peaceful nation.

Let me assure you that the negotiations between the government and the NRA [National Resistance Army] in Nairobi have not been easy and this is why they took a bit of time to conclude. However, the mapping of a new future for any nation is not an easy task. It was inevitable, therefore, that caution, seriousness, and in-depth considerations of all areas of concern had to underline the commitment of both parties to find a lasting solution.

The efforts expended by all those involved in the peace talks have been characterized by selflessness which has made it possible to reach compromises on matters which at first looked too delicate and explosive. This spirit should continue to guide Ugandans at all levels of interaction and especially more so at this crucial time when all efforts should now be geared towards the laying of a strong foundation of democracy for present generation and for posterity.

Our wish has always been for Uganda to have peace so that her people can enjoy their God-given right to human dignity and economic progress. As chairman of the peace negotiations, I am deeply happy that with the signing of this peace agreement the first critical step has been taken towards the restoration of peace in Uganda.

However, I wish to remind the two parties to the peace talks that the second and most important challenge is to see that this agreement is implemented fully and in the same spirit of mutual trust. To help them achieve the fundamental goal of national reconciliation, which every Ugandan desires, the effective implementation of the agreement [word indistinct] can be achieved and thus pave the way for Ugandans to reconstruct their country.

I am confident that once peace and security have returned to Uganda the international community is ready to assist the Ugandans in the reconstructions of their country. The onus is now upon the leaders of Uganda to put national interests above all else for the sake of the suffering men and women and children in particular of Uganda.

Lastly, I wish to thank the two delegations to the peace talks for their patience and perseverance without which the signing of the peace agreement would not have been possible. I am confident that the patriotism and nationalism they have demonstrated during the talks will continue to be a great reservoir of strength with which they will together begin to rebuild their country.

Long live Uganda! May peace prevail and continue to abound within your borders. Thank you. [applause]

Okello Statement

EA171141 Nairobi Domestic Service in English
0630 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Statement by General Tito Okello, chairman of the Ugandan Military Council, in Nairobi at the signing of the peace agreement — live, in Swahili]

[Text] Kenyans, listeners, ladies and gentlemen: This morning I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Ndugu His Excellency Daniel arap Moi, the head of state and (?the commander in chief) of the Republic of Kenya. Brothers and sisters, today's ceremony is a great moment for Ugandans here and back at home. [applause]

My sincere thanks also to those who assisted his excellency in undertaking this onerous task to which he dedicated his energy and time, as well as you Kenyans, in an attempt to find peace for your Ugandan brothers and sisters. [applause] During the British colonial period the present three East African states were one. However, the situation changed, and in the years 1959 1960, and 1963 Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda came into being. [all dates as heard] That is normal. The British gave no indication that Kenya would change into something else like Uganda or Kenya. [sentence as heard] We are still the same. Our unity, intentions, and actions are the same unless we spoil it ourselves. [applause]

The problems in Uganda today are difficult to explain to you today. Normally we understand that a farm cannot produce good crops everywhere. Some crops do not grow well despite being from the same farm. This means that Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania achieved independence at about the same time. At first independence was granted smoothly. They were granted independence in good faith and told: Go ahead. At that time it was the aim of every leader to take and distribute what is now referred to as fertilizer. But in the past our fertilizers were made of grass and cow dung. When applied it produced good crops. But the fertilizers applied in Uganda did not produce a good crop. [laughter and applause] Here and there disturbances started. They continued like that. They went on like that, but we had no way, no light, or anything. We could see, but we had no voice.

Your Excellency, allow me to say a few words to the listeners. The problems continued and led to coups, which please no one in the world. [applause] Overthrowing a government elected by the people by the use of force is dangerous. [prolonged applause] It is dangerous not only in one aspect, but the main danger is that the blood of innocent people will be shed, including children and the elderly. It is very dangerous. Another danger is that lives and services are disrupted and property destroyed. So, although I am a soldier, the suffering I witnessed during that period, bearing in mind that I have seen much in my lifetime. [laughter and applause; sentence as heard]

My brother politicians, do not worry. I know that you broadcasters and journalists have a lot of questions. That I understand. But let us realize that the suffering caused by the gun in a country is worse than anything. You take steps because the leader you elected — when I say you I do not mean you Kenyans, but your brothers in Uganda elected that leader — sometimes he gets the chance to come here and join his brother, and you cheer him and you cheer him accordingly, that is the way it should be. [prolonged laughter; sentence as heard] It is a show of respect.

But the leader made a mistake by causing armed confrontation leading the people to fight with guns. That is a serious matter, a very serious matter. So when you receive information that the government in Uganda has been overthrown, you might think that greed by the army has caused the overthrow, that greed for leadership has gripped Uganda. There is a Kenyan high commissioner in Uganda. He and his staff witnessed the situation from beginning to end. Therefore, many who only hear about it think that the same greed that motivated Idi Amin has started again in Uganda. But that is not true, brothers. Mzee [Obote] himself caused a group within his army to fight the rest — not the police force but a group within the army itself to fight among themselves.

Gentlemen, although I took steps to permit the departure of the Mzee; I had no intention of killing human beings. [applause] And I had no intention, and even today I have no intention of telling any innocent person to leave the country and become a refugee in a certain country. Those who came to you were in Tanzania [as heard]; my colleagues, did so of their own free will, or they had committed a crime back home when they were in power. They had grown horns and they were doing this. [laughter; sentence as heard] Therefore, we were not the ones who who chased them out of the country; not my government, no.

But because political (?power) is sweet, they say this is the truth. They have sweet tongues, very sweet. Therefore, the politicians working with Mzee are still there. I did not want to kill; I did not want to detain them without their having committed a crime. Some of them are here participating in the peace talks. They make up the majority. I have appointed one as prime minister who is helping me and is present here now, but I do not want him to stand up. You will take his photograph. [laughter]

The time you have spent on Uganda, which culminated in the signing of the agreement with my young fellow [Museveni] [laughter] before a huge crowd, will go into the records, thanks to all of you present here witnessing the signing of the agreement between myself and this young man.

When you hear of new violence in Uganda you should investigate carefully, very carefully. My brothers: He and I were refugees in 1971. The refugee problem, as you know, turns a child into an old man and a man into a madman. [prolonged laughter]

My brother, Arap Moi, thank you for shouldering our problems in a very tolerant manner. You did not say: You Ugandans, pack up and go; your problems are difficult to solve.Therefore, Your Excellency and all Kenyans, we are going home today.

Today we are at home [in Kenya], and we are leaving for home today. We should cooperate in whatever we are doing. [applause] When you come to visit Uganda you should feel at home. [applause] Peace in Kenya means peace in Uganda; peace in Kenya means peace in Tanzania; peace in Kenya means peace in Sudan; peace in Kenya means peace in Rwanda and Burundi. [applause] And if we do not cooperate, there will be no (?trust). If a neighboring country is unstable, you do not feel safe at all.

Youth should heed the call by elders in this country to follow in their footsteps [Nyayo: Kenyan party slogan] because this is an important matter. Why should the cow's hind legs be separate from the front legs? [applause] If a cow's legs fail to coordinate its steps, the cow will die there and then. [applause] Therefore, my brothers, let us follow in the footsteps of our elders. They have (?shown us the road), and it is our turn to follow in their footsteps so that the many generations to come can take up the task of building our countries. We are capable of building our nations left to us, at our request, by the colonialists.

In brief, Your Excellency and all of you here, thank you for listening to me carefully, and therefore thank you and peace be with you. [applause]

Museveni Statement

EA170932 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0649 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Statement by Yoweri Museveni, leader of the Ugandan National Resistance Army, in Nairobi at the signing of the peace agreement — live]

[Text] Your Excellency, the president of Kenya, Mr Daniel arap Moi; my colleague, General Tito Okello, the president [as heard] of Uganda and the chairman of the Military Council; honorable ministers of Kenya and ministers of Uganda: First of all I would like to thank the president of Kenya and the people of Kenya for enabling us to meet here for so many months in an attempt to resolve our problems. Thank you very much. [applause]

Secondly, I would like to announce to the world that the signing of this peace agreement here today is a victory for the people of Uganda as a whole. [applause] The violence in Uganda was not started by the people. The violence in Uganda was started by the people in power. Way back in 1964 the government started killing the population. At (Nakulaviye) in 1964 the people who had the gund, that were being paid by us to protect us, turned their guns on us. They killed the people with impunity. The government of the day did nothing about that. And that process of state-inspired violence has been going on ever since.

Now some time later — I think in the seventies — the population started responding to the violence of the state by also using violence against the state. I want the world to understand this. The people of Uganda, the population, did not start violence. I was not a soldier. I was an intellectual, [applause] Why did I become a soldier? I became a soldier to defend myself and my people against state-inspired violence. [applause]

People were killed in 1964. Our people were killed in 1966. Our people were killed in 1969. Amin killed our people from 1971 to 1979. Milton Obote killed our people from 1981 to 1985. And the Military Council has been killing our people even recently. [applause] I do not blame Gen Tito Okello personally, and that is why I am willing to talk to him. [applause] That is the only reason I am willing to talk to him.

But even today the population of Uganda are being killed. Only the other day one of our parliamentary candidates in the elections of 1980, a man called Kabunduh from Entebbe, a geologist — what was his job? A hydrologist, a hydrologist, somebody, I think that is the one who deals with water — was murdered. Just about a week, a week ago. He was murdered, his body was thrown on (Lusende) beach, and I have no evidence to show that the state which is in charge now has taken any action on this murder. I have no evidence at all.

The violation of human rights that has gone on in Uganda is simply beyond belief. People have been murdered and evidence will come up. Evidence will come up. Who was responsible for this? We are not going to rest until those responsible for such a massive hemorrhage of the lives of our people are brought to book. Otherwise this agreement would have no purpose. [applause]

Therefore, Your Excellency, what happens now is that the people also by using the instrument of the state, violence, they used the violence of the state, now we are able to establish an equilibrium. [sentence as heard] We are able to establish an equilibrium where the people in power must be dissuaded once and for all never to violate the rights of the people. [applause] The rights of the people are sovereign. The people are the sovereign power in the land. Anybody who does not recognize that ought not to be in power. That is our belief.

Therefore, Your Excellency, what has happened here today is that the NRM [National Resistance Movement], which started with only (?37) people, armed people, opposing the violence of Obote, then later on of my colleagues here in the Military Council, we have at last been able to persuade our friends that it is not profitable to kill the unarmed population. That is why we have signed this peace treaty here.

Now I can assure you, ladies and gentlemen, that our movement is a very serious partner in anything. If you want peace, we are serious partners. If you want trouble, we are also serious opponents. [laughter and applause] Now that we have signed this peace agreement with the mediation of President Moi of Ken[illegible] I can assure my colleagues here of the M[illegible] egation and our own people and the people of Uganda and the world that the strength of our movement and our army, the discipline of our movement and our army would be at the disposal of anybody interested in peace in Uganda. [applause]

And our strength is not inconsiderable. So if we really are serious, and I hope Gen Tito is serious, and he is an honest man, definitely there will be peace in Uganda. [applause] And for us, we shall do everything possible to ensure that the agreement, which we have signed here, is implemented, because this is a very good agreement. We have negotiated it for many months. We have put in all the provisions that can guarantee the rights of the people. That is very, very, very crucial. The people must be guaranteed; [applause] not the rulers, not the rulers, the rulers are expendable. They can come and go, but the people would always stay. [applause]

Any [as heard], that is why people are asking (?today) what does Museveni want. He has been offered the vice chairmanship. Why does he not accept? People are asking, you know, because this question of vice chairmanship was solved long ago. But my interest is not vice chairmanship. My interest is the interests of the population. And if those are not guaranteed by any agreement, we would not be party to that agreement. So this agreement we have signed because it has got enough provisions to protect the interest of the population of Uganda.

To investigate [words indistinct] and to lay the basis for a sound development program in the future. That is why we have signed this agreement. So it is a very, very good agreement. And we are going to implement it. We are going to implement. We are going

to put our resources at the disposal of this agreement to ensure that it is implemented.

And I thank His Excellency Daniel arap Moi, the president of Kenya, who has really helped us. He has not only helped us in negotiating here, but he has helped us in keeping out fellows who wanted to fish in troubled waters. [applause] I want to tell you this: There are those fellows who wanted to fish in troubled waters. There are those who take advantage of Africa's weakness because we are weak. If you are confused, you will become weak. If you are confused, you become weak.

You divide yourself unnecessarily, and because you are divided unnecessarily you are not divided on principled ground. We are divided on nonprincipled ground. [sentence as heard]

You fragment your strength and you become easy prey of anybody who wants to fish in troubled waters. Now fortunately in this particular case because so many people wanted to (?come) — you know Uganda has no national government now which was accepted — there were armies everywhere; they wanted to come in and fish in troubled waters.

But the president of Kenya warned them off. [applause] And we are greateful for that. Therefore I want to assure you, brothers and sisters, that on behalf, as far as the NRM is concerned, with all our committees in the land, our army, our external wing of the movement, we are going to work wholeheartedly for the implementation of this peace agreement. Thank you very much. [applause]

Okello Leaves for Kampala

EA171109 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Excerpt] President Moi hosted a luncheon at State House, Nairobi, to mark the historic occasion of the signing of Uganda peace agreement. The luncheon was attended by the delegation of the Military Council and the NRM and Kenyan officials.

Meanwhile, the Ugandan head of state and chairman of the Military Council, General Tito Okello, later departed from the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for Kampala, Uganda. Gen Okello was seen off by His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi and the vice president and minister for home affairs, Mr Mwai Kibaki. The Ugandan leader who took off at 1225 p.m. [0925 GMT] had earlier inspected a guard of honor mounted by the first battalion of the Kenya Army.

SEYCHELLES

Diplomatic Ties Established With Indonesia

AB161131 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Victoria, Dec 16 (AFP) — Seychelles and Indonesia have established diplomatic relations, an official communique said here today. The communique said the move would promote and intensify cooperation in the political, economic, social and cultural fields. The two capitals will be represented, on a residential basis, by their respective ambassadors at the United Nations Headquarters.

TANZANIA

Prime Minister Interviewed by Soviet News Agency

EA162346 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Dar es Salaam: The prime minister and first vice president, Ndugu Joseph Warioba, has said the question of international peace and security needed a wider platform than provided by the superpowers. In an interview with the Soviet NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY, APN, in Dar es Salaam, Ndugu Warioba said responsibility for genuine disarmament belongs to all nations. He said all nations should get the opportunity to contribute and create an atmosphere which is conducive to genuine disarmament.

Ndugu Warioba said the recent Geneva summit on disarmament heartened Tanzania as the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the U.S., were on improved terms motivated by the desire that the problem of nuclear weapons require commitment on both parties.

Party Delegation Leaves for Soviet Union 16 Dec

EA162311 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Dar es Salaam: A three-man Chama Cha Mapinduzi delegation left Dar es Salaam for Moscow today at the invitation of the CPSU. They are led by the head of the Department of Political Propaganda and Mass Mobilization of the National Executive Committee [NEC], Ndugu Moses Mnauye. The others are NEC member Ndugu Isaac Sepetu, who is also the Tanzanian ambassador to the USSR, and Ndugu Ame Vuai Ame, a member of the NEC from Zanzibar.

Meanwhile, another two-man party delegation headed by NEC member Ndugu Alfred Tandau is expected to leave for Kigali today to attend a conference of the ruling party in Rwanda.

Prime Minister Receives Mozambican Foreign Minister

MB170540 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] In Dar es Salaam today, Mozambique's minister of foreign affairs, Joaquim Chissano, held talks with Joseph Warioba, prime minister and first vice president of Tanzania. The talks, which were also attended by Benjamin Mkapa, Tanzania's minister of foreign affairs, and Francisco Madeira, Mozambique's ambassador to Tanzania, dealt with the latest events in southern Africa. Minister Chissano has been in Dar es Salaam since

yesterday on a visit that has been described as part of the regular contacts between the two governments.

Tomorrow, the Mozambican minister of foreign affairs is scheduled to travel to Zanzibar, where he will meet Idris Abdul Wakil, president of Zanzibar and second vice president of Tanzania.

UGANDA

41 Hijacked Plane Hostages To Be Released

AB161814 Paris AFP in French 1716 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Kampala, 16 Dec (AFP) — Forty-one hostages of the Ugandan airline plane, hijacked a month ago, and detained since then in Kasese (western Uganda) by the National Resistance Army (NRA — a major guerrilla movement) will be released on Tuesday [17 December],Radio Uganda, citing a communique from the vice president of the Ruling Military Council, announced on Monday.

According to the radio, "the 41 hostages will be released tomorrow (Tuesday) unless a last-minute problem arises." These hostages, the communique adds, will leave Kasese at 0900 (0600 GMT) and their plane is scheduled to land at the Entebbe International Airpor, at 1000 local time. The communique also invites releatives of the hostages to go to Entebbe to welcome them.

Refugees Engaged in 'Criminal' Acts Warned

EA161611 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Kampala: Uganda's military government today warned refugees involved in criminal activities that they could undermine their status in the country. A government spokesman said Uganda will continue to welcome refugees, but they must know that freedom to enjoy fundamental human rights has a ceiling.

Today's statement did not give the nationality of the refugees being warned, but it appeared to be aimed at the 30,000 Ugandans who returned to Uganda from Rwanda after the July coup that toppled President Obote. The military government does not regard them as Ugandan citizens.

The UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] financed a screening exercise to ascertain their nationality and its Kampala spokesman later said the majority had been proved to be Ugandans.

CHAD

Dissidents Say 2 U.S. 'Mercenaries' Captured

AB161304 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Brazzaville Dec 16 (AFP) — Rebels in southern Chad have captured two mercenaries from the United States fighting for the Ndjamena government, opposition leader Colonel Abdelkader Kamougue said here today.

He named the men as Phillip N. Goss and Douglas A. Broussard, and said they claimed to be working for the Esso Oil Company. A visiting card found on Mr Goss described him as an area supervisor for geophysical operations in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Colonel Kamougue, who was vice-president in the government of Goukouni Oueddei before it was ousted from Ndjamena by Hissein Habre in August 1982, said the Americans were seized by guerrillas of the so-called Codo rebels, along with their jeep which was fitted with radio equipment. The two were armed, Col Kamougue said. He described them as "American mercenaries fighting with Habre's Army".

Col Kamougue is head of the Chadian People's Revolutionary Movement, and still vice-president in Mr Goukouni's Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT) which holds much of northern Chad with Libyan support. He said that the Ndjamena Government "supported by French and American imperialism, is deploying its militarist forces throughout the south to try to recuperate the two American mercenaries".

Col Kamougue did not say when the two were captured or where they were being held, but referred to recent clashes between Codos and government forces at Miandoum, 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of Doba in Eastern Logone Province.

Fighting in the south had never ceased, he said, in spite of Mr Habre's claims to have won over the region, he said.

Col Kamougue said production of cotton, a key source of revenue in Chad grown exclusively in the south, had slumped and would not exceed 120,000 tonnes this year.

Codos had attacked the factory of the Cotontchad concern at Moundou in August, burning the building and killing eight policemen and two French employees, he added.

Americans Released

AB161835 Paris AFP in English 1812 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Paris, Dec 16 (AFP) — Two American oil company employees kidnapped by anti-government rebels in southern Chad on November 23 were released on December 9, an oil company executive said here today.

He was reacting to the announcement today by a leading Chadian opposition leader, Colonel Abdelkader Kamougue, that the rebels had captured two "mercenaries" from the United States.

A spokesman for Esso, the French affiliate of the U.S. oil firm Exxon, said the two men, Phillip Goss and Douglas Broussard, had been released "safe and sound".

Col. Kamougue said the Americans, who he said had been fighting for the Ndjamena government, were seized by guerrillas of the so-called codos rebel movement, along with their radio-equipped jeep.

The Esso spokesman said the two men had been doing geological research, work which was normal in areas considered potentially rich in hydro-carbons.

Earlier today, Col. Kamougue accused the Chadian Government, "supported by French and American colonialism, of deploying its militarist forces throughout the south to recuperate the two American mercenaries".

Col. Kamougue is vice-president of the rebel Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) headed by Goukouni Oueddei, which holds much of northern Chad with Libyan support.

CONGO

Sassou-Nguesso Returns From Paris, Comments

AB161728 Dakar PANA in French 1335 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Brazzaville, 1 Dec [ACI/PANA] — The Congolese president, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, returned to Brazzaville on Sunday from Paris where he participated in the annual France-Africa summit from 11 to 13 December.

Concerning the Chadian problem which was debated at length during the summit, the Congolese head of state admitted the complexity of the issue in an interview with the press in Paris on Friday while stressing that it will finally end with positive results. He also reaffirmed his readiness to pursue dialogue with the parties involved in the Chadian conflict, in conformity with the mandate given to him by his African peers during the 21st summit of the Organization of African Unity in July this year in Addis Ababa.

GABON

Bongo Reviews France-Africa Summit on Return

AB161105 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0630 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] The 12th France-Africa summit has ended. President Omar Bongo of Gabon said on his arrival yesterday in Libreville, the Gabonese capital, that it was a summit full of lessons. Reviewing the summit, Mr Bongo first of all described it as positive. According to the Gabonese head of state, the summit gave the French-speaking countries the opportunity to discuss their problems fully while respecting the sovereignty of each. Afterward, President Bongo revealed to the press that he discussed the problem of the nomination of the secretary general of the Cultural and Technical Cooperation Agency, ACCT. President Bongo speaks:

[Begin Bongo recording] We, the heads of state, had contacts at our level. We also had to solve some problems that concerned Gabon, namely, the ACCT for which there are many candidates. But the French-speaking countries, in view of certain reports made on the former secretary general, have decided that Gabon must present a new secretary general.

Proposals were made and someone was retained as a candidate because of his popularity or for various other reasons that were clearly given and which we reviewed. The next day, when we were invited for breakfast with the president of the French Republic — there were about five or six of us present — the doyen, Houphouet-Boigny, who was our spokesman, told the president of the Republic of France that we have a candidate, that we will support our African candidate, and that it was wrong of France to present its candidate and that [words indistinct]. The president of the French Republic also expressed his view that although France has the headquarters, it has no officials holding a post in the organization. We said that for us in Africa, one cannot at the same time have the headquarters and be the secretary general. In our opinion, it is incompatible. I think I also had another round of talks with the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. [as heard] Yesterday, he worked because many French-speaking countries — and all those who speak French in Canada, Belgium, and everywhere — have asked for the French-speaking world to become an institution. [Sentence as heard] So these countries asked the ministers of foreign affairs, who were present at the conference, to meet. And, as I was telling you, I have not yet asked what the ministers of foreign affairs and cooperation have done. I think a summit meeting of heads of state of French-speaking countries is in view. [end recording]

CAPE VERDE

Sao Tome Head of State Concludes Visit

AB161917 Paris AFP in French 1338 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Praia, 16 Dec (AFP) — Manuel Pinto da Costa, the Sao Tome head of state ended a 4-day working visit to Cape Verde on Sunday. This visit fell within the framework of the policy of coordination of the cooperation between the five Portuguese-speaking African countries (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome) official sources said. Mr Pinto da Costa, who is the current chairman of the organization of these five countries, already went to Mozambique and Angola.

Before leaving for Bissau, the last leg of his tour, the Sao Tomean head of state told newsmen that he was very satisfied with the improvement of the cooperation between the Portuguese-speaking African countries and expressed his wish to see it strengthened after the Luanda summit.

During the last summit held by the heads of state of the Portuguese-speaking African countries in Sao Tome in February 1985, the five heads of state decided to meet again in Luanda before the end of this year.

GHANA

Paper Calls for Peaceful Relations With U.S.

AB161612 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Dec 85

[From the Press Review]

[Text] The *GHANAIAN VOICE* once again calls for peaceful relations between Ghana and the United States, following the end of the Soussoudis affair and the expulsion of four American diplomats from Ghana. The paper says what started as a diplomatic squabble over the exposure of CIA spies in Ghana has over the last 5 months degenerated to a point where the United States has now taken punitive economic measures. The *VOICE* believes that the measures taken against Ghana are simply arm-twisting meant to show Ghana that big and powerful America can, if it so wishes, (?bring) one form of punishment or the other on Ghana, a Third World nation. The paper however calls on America to handle the whole affair with maturity, because both Ghana and the United States stand to gain from each other.

CDR Official on U.S. Decision To Withdraw Aid

AB161535 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Dec 85

[From the Press Review]

[Text] The *TIMES* gives prominence to a statement by Silas Nortey of the Accra District Secretariat of CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] that the decision by the United States to cut aid to Ghana should neither deter any Ghanaian nor detract cadres from the goals of the revolution. Inaugurating the reconstituted CDR executive of Metalloplastica Ghana Limited in Accra at the weekend, he said this should spur all workers on to work harder for higher productivity to free the country from foreign manipulation.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Sao Tome Head of State Arrives for Visit

AB161724 Paris AFP in French 1348 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Bissau, 16 Dec (AFP) — Manuel Pinto da Costa, the Sao Tomean head of state, arrived on Sunday in Bissau for a 4-day official visit to the country. This visit falls within the framework of the coordination policy of cooperation between the two Portuguese-speaking African countries.

Mr Pinto da Costa, who is the current chairman of the organization of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome), on Monday held a first working session with General Joao Bernardo Vieira, the Guinea-Bissau head of state.

During his visit to the country, the Sao Tomean head of state will visit socioeconomic development projects in the interior of the country.

MALI

President Traore Receives Libyan Envoy 12 Dec

LD130928 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Yesterday, Mali President Moussa Traore received the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and handed him a message to the brother leader of the Great 1 September Revolution.

Algerian Minister Delivers Messages to Traore

AB161925 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Malian People's Democratic Union and president of the Republic of Mali, received at 1300 Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Taleb Ibrahim, who delivered to him a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. Their discussions centered around the excellent bonds of friendship and cooperation existing between our two countries and peoples. They also discussed issues of common interest, particularly the situation in the subregion, the region, in Africa, as well as in the rest of the world.

Present at the discussions were Modibo Keita, our minister of employment and civil service who represented the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; Mohamed Alhousseyni Toure, secretary general of the Presidency; (Tidiani Guisse), the head of state's diplomatic adviser; and the Algerian ambassador to Mali, His Excellency Amrani.

Party Official Returns From Mission to UAE

AB162105 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Textgll The deputy secretary general of the party [Malian People's Democratic Union] and minister of state for planning returned to Bamako yesterday from a mission to the Government of the UAE. While in Abu Dhabi, General Amadou Baba Diarra delivered a message from General Moussa Traore to Zayid ibn Sultan Shaykh Al Nuhayyan.

NIGERIA

Death Sentences Passed Under Decree Suspended

AB161655 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] All death sentences passed by tribunals under Decree No. 20 have been suspended for the time being. The order was given in Lagos today by the chairman of the tribunal reviewing the cases of convicted persons, Retired Mr Justice (Akionla Aguda), while addressing the inaugural session of the tribunal. Mr Justice (Aguda) warned that the tribunal would not tolerate any adjournment under any circumstances. He stated that if the tribunal could meet its deadline of 2 months it had to work according to schedule and without undue delay. Eight persons, one of them a woman, Mariama Muhammad Usman, appeared before the tribunal today, begging that they should be allowed to join their relations. None of them was represented by counsel.

According to the secretary of the tribunal, George (Lowego), the tribunal will hold sessions in Kaduna and Port Harcourt, before rounding off in Lagos on the 25th of February next year.

SIERRA LEONE

President Momoh Receives Guinean Delegation

AB161541 Freetown Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Excerpt] A high-powered government delegation from the Republic of Guinea, led by the Guinean ambassador here, Madam Tigindanke Diakhaby, has paid a courtesy call on President Momoh during his visit to Kabala. Madam Diakhaby informed President Momoh that the delegation which included four provincial governors, was specifically sent by General Lansana Conte with a message of solidarity and a call for continued unity and more brotherliness.

The ambassador formally congratulated President Momoh on his election victory on behalf of the Guinean Government, and emphasized that the interests of Sierra Leone and her country were interwoven as events in one country invariably affect the other. She emphasized the negative effects of tribalism and called for tribal cohesion in the two sister republics as well as sustained agricultural programs that could ensure self-sufficiency in food production.

Expressing gratitude and appreciation for the visit, which he described as memorable, President Momoh said it demonstrated the solidarity, good neighborliness and brotherliness among the two sister states. He reaffirmed that the two countries were divided during the balkanization of Africa by colonialists to prevent our continent from becoming a strong unifying force. He however noted that our attainment of political independence must serve as motivation for all to strive and achieve economic independence to consolidate our independence. President Momoh said both states must endeavor to consolidate their unity to enable our existing cordial relationship to grow stronger. He recalled that Guinea's entry into the Mano River Union was designed to pool the resources of the 3-member states together to enhance their socioeconomic well-being. He however regretted that the union was not working properly because of financial reasons. The president said he looked forward to an early meeting with the Guinean leader to iron out common problems confronting the union and their bilateral relations.

President Momoh later proposed a toast to the continued friendship and lasting relationship between the governments and peoples of the two states and for understanding and brotherhood between General Lansana Conte and himself.

SENEGAL

OAU's Ide Oumarou Arrives in Dakar for Visit

AB162041 Dakar PANA in French 1400 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Dakar, 16 Dec (PANA) — The UN's decision to call a special session on Africa's development is a ratification of last July's OAU decision made in Addis Ababa, Ide Oumarou said.

The OAU secretary general, who arrived Sunday night in Dakar within the framework of a consultation meeting to prepare a special session between the United Nations, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the OAU, was delighted about the international community's new attitude toward Africa. He pointed out that for a few years now, the economic situation has deteriorated in the African states to the extent that most of them have suffered from famine and the bad international economic situation. The result of this deterioration for Africa, he said, is the persistent economic recession in our states, the problem of indebtedness (Africa's external debts currently amount to $170 billion). The result is also that objectives targeted in our various development plans have not been achieved.

According to the OAU secretary general, the time has come for Africa to take emergency measures to cope with this situation, and, he added, the upcoming international conference will be an opportunity to awaken the conscience of the international community to the problems of the continent so that concrete measures could be taken to promote Africa's progress. According to Ide Oumarou, the Dakar consultative meeting will determine the tasks so that we know who will do what, and what we expect of this conference, which is scheduled to take place from 27 to 31 May 1986.

On the France-Africa summit, the secretary general of the OAU said the multiplication of consultation centers on Africa's prob-

lems is not bad in itself, the essential thing is that Africans know how to determine their interest and that these meetings end up in a general consensus that can bring solutions that could be used for the welfare of the continent. The African heads of state who went to Paris, he stated, did not go to look for solutions; they went to exchange ideas with their non-African partners, who, through their knowledge of world problems, could bring ideas to tackle the issues in Africa.

In an answer to a question on Arab-Africa cooperation, Ide Oumarou regretted that this cooperation still has some problems. He, however, hoped that the meeting in Damascus, where he is expected to sign a protocol agreement with his Arab League counterpart, will be the point of departure to revive this cooperation. Both sides have the will, and as far as the OAU is concerned, we are ready to work to our utmost to realize our goal which is so dear to the Arab and African world.

Concerning the arrears in contributions to the OAU Special Fund for the Liberation Movements, the OAU secretary general emphasized that this is a general problem, both at the general budget level and at those of the specialized organizations. He disclosed that the OAU is currently emphasizing the liberation of the continent and the elimination of apartheid and that an awakening of conscience is gaining ground on these two problems. He also pointed out that under the auspices of the OAU, the entire international community, and Africans in particular, are revising their attitude toward southern African issues.

It should be noted that Adebayo Adedeji and Jean Ripert, ECA executive secretary and deputy UN Secretary General in charge of development and cooperation respectively, are also present in Dakar within the framework of the preparations for the extraordinary session of the United Nations which will examine the economic situation in Africa next May.

TOGO

Eyadema Returns Home From Paris Summit

AB161402 Lome Domestic Service in French
1230 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The head of state, President Gnassingbe Eyadema, has just arrived in Lome from Paris where he attended the 12th France-Africa summit of heads of state. He was welcomed at the airport by Kpotivi Djidjogbe Lacle, member of the member of the Political Bureau and minister of interior, and Gbegnon Amegboh, member of the Central Committee and minister delegate at the Presidency in charge of information.

ANGOLA

UNITA Communique on MPLA Congress, Offensive

MB151201 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 15 Dec 85

["Communique from UNITA's Central Committee and the Strategic Operational Command" issued in Jamba on 11 December]

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 15 Dec (KUP) — 1. The Angolan people anxiously followed the recently ended Second Congress of the MPLA-Labor Party. Friends and foes alike had hoped that the congress would come up with a word of reconciliation and peace. The MPLA-Labor Party has failed to fulfill the aspirations of our people who are tired of war and tired of waiting.

2. Instead, the Second MPLA-Labor Party Congress came up with the following messages for the Angolan people and the international community:

A) Cuba and the USSR are natural allies of the MPLA.

B) No to the linkage between the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of Cubans from Angola.

C) Marxism-Leninism and the alliance with Cuba and the USSR are natural.

3. The Angolan people emerged as losers in the Second MPLA-Labor Party Congress because peace is absolutely indispensable to the stability and social and economic progress of our country.

4. We, the representatives of the struggle for national liberation and against imperialism since the days of the anticolonial struggle, hereby reiterate our national axioms: Political stability, economic progress, and regional peace require national reconciliation, and those of us in UNITA do not impose any preconditions for this.

5. The second MPLA-Labor Party Congress was a failure because it did not respond to the ardent aspiration of the Angolan people, which is peace.

6. Through its president, UNITA appeals to the democratic United States and the states of liberal Europe to present themselves united in the face of Soviet totalitarianism so that there may be liberty and democracy in Africa.

7. The great offensive against Jamba has already began on the Bundas, Kuito Kuanavale, and Savate axis. It is not our intention to resort to blackmail in order to be assisted. Angola is our country; Angola in our fatherland. The UNITA-South African alliance is only a geopolitical alliance. We, as the representatives of the Angolan people, will bear our responsibilities to the end, with our without external assistance.

The Second MPLA-Labor Party Congress was misleading. The Angolan reality is found at Kanage, Kuito Kuanavale, Nehone, and Longa.

8. External assistance is the result of the internal desire for independence and dignity. The MPLA has failed to give the people an alternative to the war. We stand ready before history. Who will follow Roosevelt, De Gaulle, and Churchill? Angola is Angola and South Africa is South Africa.

[Dated] Jamba, 11 December 1985, year of total mobilization against the Cubans for the defense of our country's territorial integrity

[Signed] General Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, president of UNITA and commander in chief of FALA [Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola]

Subcommission on Trade With Cuba Opens

MB140819 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] It is expected that trade relations between our country and Cuba will be further strengthened with the opening in Luanda yesterday of the meeting of the joint subcommission of foreign trade between the two states.

According to remarks by Planning Minister Lopo do Nascimento during the opening session yesterday, the economic relations which were reviewed in Havana last September by Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Fidel Castro have been developing successfully.

He also said that some of the principal aims of the meeting will be to examine what has been accomplished so far in the field of trade and to draw up plans for the development of this cooperation because there are still areas which have not been exploited.

In turn, Ricardo Cabrisas, the Cuban minister of foreign trade, expressed his satisfaction to be visiting Angola at a time when the Angolan people have just held their second party congress, which approved important resolutions for the life of the nation.

In his opinion, trade relations between Angola and Cuba have been developing successfully.

The proccedings of the Angolan-Cuban joint subcommission on foreign trade, which are due to end on 17 December, are examining the level of the implementation of the agreements in this field as well as the dispatch to Angola of Cuban technicians specialized in this sector.

During its stay in Angola, the Cuban delegation will hold meetings with Angolan ministers of planning, foreign and internal trade, agriculture, and energy and petroleum, as well as with the secretary of state for culture.

The delegation is also expected to visit a number of production units such as the Angolan Cement Enterprise and the (Cuacuacu) salt-pit.

MOZAMBIQUE

Finance Minister Addresses People's Assembly

MB140826 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1100 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Speech by Finance Minister Rui Baltasar at the 14th session of the People's Assembly in Maputo on 12 December — recorded]

[Text] Your Excellencies [words indistinct] our enemies and the inefficient organization of enterprises in terms of production.

The progress in the struggle of the liquidation of armed banditry is a fact, the most significant example of which were the operations carried out in Gorongosa, as well as the improvement in security in most of our provinces. The armed bandits aimed most of their actions against economic objectives with the clear intention of disrupting our economic and social lives and preventing the reconstruction that we had planned to achieve. Moreover, 1985 also reflects the accumulation of the effects of war throughout the years.

Despite all these negative aspects, an enormous effort was made to overcome this situation by means of investments in various sectors and organizational measures. The year 1985 was a reasonable one in terms of agricultural production, but this was not felt, mainly because of the shortcomings experienced in trading. With a greater transport capability and more consumer goods available to barter with it would have been possible to attain higher bartering levels. In the sector of family production there was a slight increase in the level of bartered goods, and this shows that correct steps were taken when greater emphasis was placed on family production. Measures of an economic nature were adopted namely by increasing the prices of a wide range of agricultural and livestock goods in order to encourage producers, liberalizing organizations in order to fix such prices, and seeking to improve the management capacity of many production units through the effective application of the new exchange control system.

Although it is still too early to assess the effects of those measures in terms of production, there is an aspect that deserves our attention. The intermediary sectors are seeking to take advantage of the liberalization of prices in order to accumulate excessive and scandalous profits with a view to misrepresenting the objectives of those measures. The state cannot remain indifferent to the unrestrained greed displayed by such sectors, and appropriate measures will have to be taken.

Despite our efforts and progress, the consequences of war and the disruptive effects that it has had on our economy and finances constitute a heavy burden to the daily lives of the people who have seen their standard of living falling.

In its various forms, not only has banditry destroyed what we possess, but also sought to prevent us from using the little we have to create more wealth and improve the life of the poeple. We think, however, that we can state that in 1985 a number of foundations were laid to rapidly reverse the declining trend in the economy. In order to attain this, it is imperative to improve the coordination of actions in the context of defense and security and the essential economic activities.

Your Excellency Mr President, deputies, it was under this difficult situation we face that we worked out the state central plan for 1986, the main objectives of which are the intensification of the struggle against armed banditry, the continuation of efforts to increase foreign exchange revenue, and the improvement of supply of consumer goods to the people. The 1986 plan provides for a general economic growth rate of 13 percent, which means that we will produce about 90 percent of what we produced in 1984. Let us therefore be aware that from an economic and financial point of view, 1986 will also be an extremely difficult year. The resources that are available to us to fulfill the 1986 plan are meager, and this forces us to utilize them carefully. Wherever the objectives can be attained, we will have to use the highest possible efficiency in order to fulfill the goals that we are willing to achieve.

The fundamental premise for the fulfillment of the 1986 plan is the improvement in the security situation in the main productive and trading areas, along communication routes, and where the main works and investment projects are situated, which are regarded as strategic by the plan. It is therefore essential that in the fulfillment and control of the plan we improve our discipline, increase initiative, deepen economic organization and management, heighten vigilance, and ensure the participation of all state, cooperative, and private officials and the people as a whole.

In agricultural production and trading, we recommend an increese in cotton, cashew nut, rice, casaba, vegetable, and wood production. It is expected that the purchase of goods from the family sector will increase by 29 percent. Industry is scheduled to grow by 7 percent, its main sectors being exports, supply of consumer goods, and barter goods. With regard to transport and communications, it is expected that railroad and cargo traffic will be reactivated, and that maritime transportation, and national air passenger and telecommunications traffic will be increased.

One of the stumbling blocks of the 1986 plan is the consumption of fuels, which in principle should be somewhat less than 3 percent of the 1985 consumption. This in particular will affect petrol consumption, which means that priority must be given to the defense and security sectors, and the (?productive sector) whose activities form part of the new exchange control system. It must be ensured that consumption by other sectors is efficient, accounting for every liter of fuel consumed.

It is expected that there will be a 40 percent increase in the supply of consumer goods to the people, which means that we will return to the 1984 supply levels. This, however, will only be attainable with a growth in national production, (?cuts in imports), and the fulfillment of the international food aid program planned for our country. The main tasks outlined by the plan are the fulfillment of the so-called 30 strategic projects in the fields of investment and construction, defense and security projects, and the continuation of research into the sources of energy.

In the social sector, it is expected that in 1986 there will be an increase of 8 percent in student enrollment in schools. The national system of education will be further implemented, while

it must be ensured that technical and professional training at home and abroad is carried out in accordance with the country's requirements. There must be a substantial improvement in the level of control and management in schools.

In the field of health, we must also carry out actions which permit an increase in the utilization of vaccination programs, particularly in cities and urban centers with a view to decreasing maternal, child, and youth mortality rates and their inactivity. We must continue with the integration of the maternal and child health program into the expanded vaccination, nutrition, and health campaign, and the provision of medical care to sick children. We must give priority to the reconstruction and reequipment of health centers that have been destroyed, damaged, or closed due to the activities of armed bandits.

On foreign trade, we plan to export at least 6 percent more than 1985, and ensure that import will not exceed 12 percent of what was imported in 1985. Regarding services, the main task outlined by the plan is to ensure the forseeable foreign exchange revenue and carry out specific actions that may permit a reduction in expenditure.

In addition to all these actions and tasks, it is important that a group of coordinated and compatible measures be outlined and implemented in the context of prices, salaries, credit, taxes, budget, and investments so that it may contribute to the gradual normalization of their country's economic and financial situation. These are the main tasks that we must fulfill in 1986. The difficulties are enormous and the resources are scarce and this will demand from all of us great priority in assessing the situation in a profound manner so that the decisions may be correct and the best ones for the successful implementation of the 1986 plan.

The 1986 state central plan must be seen as one that outlines a minimum of goals to be achieved next year since all its contents are perfectly attainable. The aspects related to the practical implementation of the plan must be discussed by all sectors in a harmonious manner.

The complex situation that has been imposed upon us by the war will continue to be felt in 1986. Hence, 1986 will be another year demanding the continuation of hardships, improvement in discipline, increase in the spirit of initiative, better organization, and strengthening of vigilance.

Your Excellency Mr President, turning now to the state budget draft that we submitted to the assembly for approval, it provides for 19.5 million contos in revenue, a figure that represents 1/2 million contos less than the figure budgeted for 1985. This is the first time that this has happened since 1978. This provision results from the difference between real and estimated revenues in 1985. The real revenue was 3.5 million contos less than the revenue provided for in the 1985 state general budget. The 1985 state revenue was estimated at 20 million contos, which is 3.5 million contos less. The decrease in estimated revenue for 1986 as compared to 1985 is worth more reflection when we recall that revenue was 22.2 million contos in 1984. In other words, that means that from one year to the other, the state budget revenues have reduced by about 6 million contos.

The level of current state revenue reflects the country's economic situation which has been deteriorating in recent years. It is also the result of the fact that there is a direct correlation between the cost of production and the profits accrued to some of the principal sources of revenue, such as industrial contribution, transit duty [imposto de circulacao], import and export duties, excise duty, and so on.

This problem was not significantly felt in past years, mainly due to two factors which no longer exist in 1985: the inclusion in the state budget of taxes that can be obtained from unplanned activities such as the sale of [word indistinct] clothing and the utilization of profits accumulated by state enterprises. Thus, when estimating revenue for the year 1986, we had to be very prudent. Even so, achieving the estimated revenue demands that we adopt a number of fiscal measures and greater control and exigence in the collection of taxes to make it more effective.

With regard to spending, the 1985 state budget reveals that spending was 25 percent higher than the approved budget, meaning that it was higher than in the previous years. Again, this partly resulted from the economic situation that the country has been facing since 1981. The most significant expenses are in the material field [words indistinct] 85.4 percent, meaning an increase by 3.8 percent as compared to 1984.

Once again, we want to point out that there is a great need for the different sectors to fully assume the principle of rigorous austerity in view of the war situation faced by our country.

The 1986 budget estimates expenditure at approximately 26.7 million contos, which means that next year we shall maintain a budget deficit at the same level as 1985. The determination of expense limits for various sectors was carried out on the basis of expenses verified in the years 1984 and 1985 and other factors which are contained in the submitted proposals.

The priority given to the fight against armed banditry and its elimination implies that a more significant percentage of the state budget must be devoted to the field of defense and security. The country must carry out this effort, despite the considerable effects and heavy sacrifices, so that the life of our citizens can return to normal.

The draft budget law contains all the most relevant indicators of expenses as aggregatei, enabling the examination of its breakdowns at the central and provincial levels and from province to province.

Giving priority to the effort in the field of defense and security, the 1985 budget imposes certain restrictions in the general expenses of other sectors. This does not mean that it will not be possible to exceed the expense limits, provided that austerity is rigorously assumed by all as imperative and demanding given the economic and financial difficulties facing the country.

Particular attention should be given next year to the situation of the state enterprise sector with a view to correcting the existing economic and financial imbalances through the adoption of adequate measures entailing the examination of the situation of each one of the main state enterprises, the rationalization of their

organization and functioning, and making their management accountable so that in addition to being a burden on the state budget, they may become a source of profit.

Likewise, important actions will be mounted in the field of investments through greater control with a view to ensuring their profitability and effectiveness. The harsh reality that we are at war, with all the negative consequences of this, does not seem to be deeply felt in many sectors. We would like to point out here that under the present circumstances, the slightest waste or laxity, any lack of rigorous and systematic control must be considered as a crime against our economy and against our state.

Armed banditry assumes different facets. The misuse of goods or funds, corruption, laxity and negligence, passivity toward law violations, and the failure to carry out inspections and present accounts must be adequately punished.

Your Excellency Mr President, the general guidelines we have submitted here with regard to the terms under which the economic, social, and financial activity of our country must develop next year as well as the important successes achieved by the Mozambique Armed Forces in the fight against armed banditry, cause us to see 1986 as an important and decisive year for the launching of the recovery of our economy. We have the capability, potential, and devotion of the generous Mozambican people who have always been able to truimph over the difficulties they face throughout their rich history with imagination and courage.

Under the leadership of the Frelimo Party, which is led by you, Your Excellency Mr President, we shall in 1986 open new chapters of heroism, taking firm and solid steps toward the future of peace and well-being to which our people have the right. It is with the firm conviction that we are presenting to this assembly tasks and objectives which are completely within our reach and achievement that we propose the approval of the state central plan and state general budget for 1986. The struggle continues. Thank you very much. [applause]

Officer Says RSA Troops Advancing Into Angola

AB161757 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Maputo, Dec 16 (AFP) — South African forces have again advanced deep inside Angolan territory, a special correspondent for the Mozambican news agency AIM reported today from Ongiva, near the Angolan-Namibian border.

The report quoted Captain Jose Pascoal, an Angolan officer, as saying that the South African advance had taken place in the last four days. He was speaking at Ongiva, 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of the border.

He told the AIM correspondent that a force of "mercenaries" from the South African unit known as the "Buffalo Battalion" was at the Angolan village of Chiede, southwest of Ongiva. The battalion includes Angolans in its ranks.

Capt. Pascoal said the Angolan military command at Ongiva believed the advance could herald the beginning of another major invasion by South African forces massed on the Namibian side of the border.

The South African military struck into Angola at least twice earlier this year, on the pretext of hitting at guerrillas of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) trying to infiltrate into Namibia, controlled by Pretoria.

Angola, in turn, accused South Africa of trying to bolster the UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rebel movement of Jonas Savimbi.

South Africa has admitted helping UNITA, which was recently able to withstand a heavy onslaught from Angolan and Cuban forces only with South African support.

Ongiva, once a pretty provincial town in Kunene Province, today consists of the ruins of shell-flattened buildings. It has been occupied several times by South African forces.

Last April, South Africa maintained it had withdrawn all its forces from Angola.

But the Angolans said the South African forces still occupied the village of Namacunde, north of the border on the road from Namibia to Ongiva.

Captain Pascoal said there had been an armed clash between South African and Angolan forces last week at Ruacana, southwest of Ongiva, but that contact between officers from the two sides was continuing.

One such contact, he said, had taken place, at South Africa's request, on December 5 on the border between Santa Clara in southern Angola and Oshikango in Namibia.

A South African delegation headed by a Brigadier Swart had claimed that the frontier had been violated by SWAPO forces, but the Angolans had rejected the claim, he said.

81 'Bandits' Killed in Manica Province Jul-Nov

MB160818 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0600 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] The FPLM forces stationed in Susssundenga district, Manica Province, killed 81 armed bandits and destroyed 9 armed bandit camps between July and November this year.

Over the same period, our forces freed 93 peasants and recovered 52 head of cattle in the Donde, (Tutanda), (Zinhalronda), and Mutandera areas.

This was announced in a recent meeting of the Sussundenga joint military command to assess activities that have been carried out and to outline future actions.

During the operations, our forces captured an assortment of war material from the enemy.

SOUTH AFRICA

President, Others React to Messina Explosion

Botha Comments

MB161617 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, says the whole country is shocked over the senseless way in which peaceful citizens lost their lives as a result of terrorist action. These terrorists sought shelter in other countries from where they continued their underhanded activities.

In a statement to the SABC, President Botha said the landmine explosion near Messina yesterday in which six people were killed was the work of cowards. Mr Botha said the people responsible for this kind of atrocity against innocent people had to be fought with singlemindedness.

President Botha said yesterday's incident again emphasized the inappropriateness of hypocritical peace talks with terrorists. He said if the South African security force presence was not maintained, terrorists would overrun the country. For this reason, he said, the security forces would always enjoy the support of the state.

Defense Minister Malan

MB161455 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1454 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Messina, Dec 16, SAPA — Continued African National Congress guerrilla action along the Transvaal border with Zimbabwe could lead to a situation "similar to that of SWAPO in Angola," the minister of defence, Gen Magnus Malan, warned here today.

He was speaking after he and top defence force officers visited the remote bushveld track three kilometres from the border, near Messina, where six people were killed and five injred after their pick-up truck detonated a landmine yesterday afternoon.

The dead, including young children and an elderly woman, were all from two Tzaneen families on holiday in the area.

The minister, who interrupted his holdiay in the Cape to acquaint himself with the circumstances of the blast, did not elaborate on his warning. However, South African Armed Forces have in recent years repeatedly crossed into southern Angola to attack SWAPO bases in retaliation against insurgent's attacks in northern SWA/Namibia.

Gen Malan said there was "no doubt" the ANC had planted the landmine, as well as others that had been detected or detonated over the last two weeks.

"It is also clear that the ANC is going out of its way with this sort of action to force a conflict between the Republic of South Africa and its neighbours," he said.

He reiterated his call on neighbouring states, especially Zimbabwe, "to get their territories under control and to prevent the ANC from using them as launching pads for terror actions against South Africa."

"South Africa will not tolerate such actions, and I must warn that this could lead to a situation similar to that of SWAPO in Angola."

Asked by reporters whether the government intended to retaliate with force in response to the latest, and worst, landmine explosion, he said: "If we were I wouldn't tell you anyway."

Gen Malan said South Africa was "prepared to work with its neighbours in the interests of peace and progress."

It was of the "utmost importance to southern Africa that economic progress and peace be promoted in the region in a spirit of cooperation," he added.

Accompanied by the acting chief of the SADF, Lt-Gen Nicol Nieuwoudt, and the chief of the army, Lt-Gen "Kat" Liebensberg, the minister was flown by helicopter to the scene of the explosion, where they were briefed by field officers.

Those killed were Mrs Kobie van Eck, 34, her two-year-old son Ignatuius, her daughter Nellmarie, 8, Karna Denyschen, 9, Kobus Denyschen, 3, and their grandmother, Mrs Marie Denyschen, 59.

Those injured were Mr Dirk van Eck, 36, the owner of the farm, Amersham, where the explosion took place, his one-year-old son, E. Van Eck, Mr K. Denyschen, 36, his six-year-old daughter, G. Denyschen, and his wife Tia, 35.

At the scene, a defence force captain said that on November 28, 11 insurgents had been seen about 95m from the blast site and that the next day, five had been seen grouped on top of a nearby koppie.

Trackers had been called in and ths spoor had been followed to the Limpopo River, which forms the border with Zimbabwe.

He said the blast was most probably linked to this group of infiltrators, although there were no tracks leading from the landmine site owing to recent rains in the area.

The field officer said the two families from Tzaneen had spent the night at Chipse resort before going on to visit friends on a farm in the area, some 30km west of Messina.

The farm track on which the landmine had been planted was driven over twice yesterday afternoon by the two fathers in their pick-up before they returned to the farmhouse to collect the other members of the family.

On their return trip heading north towards the border, their vehicles right rear wheel detonated the landmine. The pick-up flipped end over end and landed facing the opposite direction about 10m away and burst in to flames.

The rear of the pick-up was almost totally disintegrated and all the occupants were thrown out on the left side.

Gen Malan and his party were taken some distance into the bush to be shown the sports where the victims had landed, some up to 20m away.

The bottom half of one child killed could not be found and another of the dead children's feet was recovered from the bush some 60m away.

A Mrs du Preez in a farmhouse a few kilometres away heard the explosion and contacted the security forces immediately. A patrol in the area saw the cloud of smoke and ran through the bush to arrive on the scene about 30 minutes later.

Mrs van Eck, who was driving the pick-up, ran eight km to his farmhouse despite head and eye injuries. He returned to the scene in another vehicle with blankets and water.

Defence force ambulances, alerted in the meantime, arrived at the scene and all the injured were evacuated by 8pm after on-the-spot treatment.

Today, a bloodied child's slipper, about 10m from the burnt-out wreck, bore testimony to the tragedy.

Field officers showed Gen Malan how the insurgents who planted the landmine had removed soil — of a different colour from the pit they had dug — and hidden it under some branches only a few metres away from the crater.

Gen Malan said afterwards that he was satisfied, after discussions with senior commanders, that the situation was under control and that "there is no reason to panic."

"The security forces are continuing to sweep the roads for landmines and are doing everything possible to make the area safe.

"I can give the assurance that the security forces are also ready for anything and therefore I make an appeal to the public to give their full cooperation so as to solve the problems."

There was no doubt the ANC planted the landmines and in this regard "they are naturally acting as the puppets of the SA Communist Party," Gen Malan said.

"It is also a typically treacherous and cowardly ANC deed which without discrimination kills people of all races, sex and ages, like the bomb explosion in Church Street during May 1983." The latest incident followed the declared ANC policy of attacking so-called soft targets and to avoid contact with the security forces, he said.

"They also usually flee to havens in neighbouring states... in a concentrated propaganda action, the republic is also branded as a destabiliser," Gen Malan said. On behalf of the government and himself, Gen Malan expressed his "deepest sympathies" with the victims of the "senseless action."

Further From Malan

MB170502 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0107 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 16, SAPA — A substantial increase in South Africa's military presence along its border with Zimbabwe is expected following the latest in a string of landmine explosions in the area, and the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan's warning that continued African National Congress infiltration there could lead to a situation "similar to that of SWAPO in Angola."

Six people, including young children and an old woman were killed, and five injured when their light pick-up truck detonated a landmine three km from the border west of Messina, late on Sunday afternoon.

After visiting the area with top Defence Force officers yesterday and being briefed by field officers, Gen Malan said there was no doubt the landmine, and others over the past few weeks, had been planted by ANC insurgents, who had crossed the border from Zimbabwe.

"The Republic of South Africa will not tolerate such actions, and I must warn that this could lead to a situation similar to that of SWAPO in Angola," he said.

The minister did not elaborate on this, but his reference to the "situation" regarding the South West Africa People's Organisation was clear.

In recent years, the South African armed forces have repeatedly crossed the Angolan border to attack SWAPO bases or on "hot pursuit operations" in response to guerrilla attacks and sabotage in Northern SWA/Namibia.

Asked if the government intended retaliating with force to the latest landmine explosion, Gen Malan said: "If we were, I wouldn't tell you anyway."

Less than three weeks ago, the first landmine to be detonated on South African territory exploded near Messina, which is only a few kilometres from the border with Zimbabwe.

A young farmer escaped unharmed but his pick-up truck was wrecked and his dog killed. This was followed by a string of landmine incidents in the area, during which some mines were detected by security forces sweeping roads following the general alert. A few others, were, however, detonated and among the victims were a black tractor driver who was killed and six soldiers who were injured when their patrol vehicle drove over a landmine.

The South African Government said the landmines had been planted in the area by ANC insurgents, who had crossed the border from Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwe Government strongly denied South Africa's allegations and warned it was ready to repulse an "invasion" by the South African Defence Force.

Although permitting an ANC presence in Zimbabwe and maintaining a highly critical approach to South Africa after it came to power, Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe's government refused to allow the ANC to use its territory as a base for guerrilla operations against South Africa.

In a speech following the first few mine incidents, Gen Malan last week warned neighbouring states against harbouring "terrorists."

There would be no hesitation in acting in South Africa's interests to combat this threat.

The emergence of border conflict along the Transvaal's hitherto fairly quiet border with Zimbabwe has spotlighted the South African military presence there.

The enormity of the task facing security force patrolling the area is highlighted by the fact that the latest landmine explosion occurred on an unoccupied farm, on an isolated, rarely travelled track, one of literally thousands in the area.

BUSINESS DAY Editorial

MB161651 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1626 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 17, [as received] SAPA — The planting of landmines in the northern Transvaal amounted to "an act of war" and the ANC had to accept that a violent response was inevitable, *BUSINESS DAY* said in an editorial today (Tuesday).

"The perpetrators must be found and destroyed," the newspaper said, adding that a hardening of attitudes was inevitable after Saturday's blast in which six people died.

"A landmine explosion amounts to such indiscriminate killing that it is the act of ultimate terrorism. The fact that four of the victims were small children testifies to this," *BUSINESS DAY* said.

Before the blast, "a new frame of mind" had been gaining ground in South Africa.

"The climate was swinging strongly towards accepting the need to negotiate. Even government was showing sings of responding.

"The prospect of talking to the ANC — as one of the political groups with a role to play in a future South Africa — was day by day becoming less remote.

"Now, after the Messina horror, a hardening of mind is inevitable.

"And, of course, tensions between Zimbabwe and SA will heighten even further. Foreign Minister Pik Botha will no doubt, in his inimitable fashion, wave the big stick in whatever talks he holds with Harare.

"He has every justification, although we do not yet know for certain whether the killers operated out of Zimbabwe, or whether, as some have suggested, an internal ANC cell was responsible.

"Whichever it is, the planting of the mines amounts to an act of war, and the ANC must accept that a violent response is inevitable. The perpetrators must be found and destroyed.

"The ANC wants change in South Africa. So do many reasonable people and organisations, this newspaper included. But opting for soft targets cannot in anyone's eyes be seen as constructive. If the ANC continues, it must understand that violence will simply beget more violence."

[Johannesburg SAPA in English at 1723 GMT on 16 December transmits a message amending paragraphs two and ten to read "The perpetrators must be found and punished." Changing "destroyed" to "punished".]

Conservative Party Comment

MB161703 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1615 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 16, SAPA — The Conservative Party [CP] today called on the government to "wipe out all terrorist bases in neighbouring countries" following the landmine blast in Messina yesterday.

Mr Koos van der Merwe, CP MP for Jeppe, and the CP's chief spokesman for defence matters, said in Johannesburg today:

"The Conservative Party extends its condolences to the bereaved victims and expresses its shock with the latest cowardly act of terrorism which cannot be left unpunished.

"In view of the arrogant perserverence by South Africa's neighbouring states, in accommodating murderers of innocent South Africans, including women and children, the CP demands that the government, without delay, instructs the defence force to wipe out all terrorist bases in neighbouring countries.

"Advocate Thomas Langley, CP, MP, together with about 100 farmers today waited for four hours in the Messina area for the minister of defence (General Magnus Malan), who did not turn up."

Church Condemns Blast

MB171003 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0959 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 17, SAPA — The Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa today condemned the killing in the landmine explosion in northern Transvaal at the weekend.

"We condemn the action of those who killed six innocent people with the landmine in the northern Transvaal," the church said in a statement to SAPA.

The statement was issued by the moderator of the church, the Rt Rev G.S. Craig, the convenor of church and nation, Dr M.P. Moore, and the clerk of assembly, Mr I.S. Aitken.

"We deplore the callous disrespect for human life which is emerging on both sides of the conflict in our country. Such actions are unacceptable to the Christian conscience and Christians should bring pressure to bear to end them," the statement said.

ANC Claims Responsibility for Messina Explosion

MB161731 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1600 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] The ANC says it was responsible for plainting a landmine near Messina which killed six people. An ANC spokesman says the device was one of a number planted by units operating in South Africa, some of which exploded last month, killing a black farm worker and injuring a number of other people. The blasts have heightened tension between Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Border Commanders To Meet Zimbabwean Counterparts

MB171128 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1127 GMT
17 Dec 85

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 17, SAPA — South African military area commanders along Transvaal's border with Zimbabwe are to hold talks with their Zimbabwean counterparts following the latest landmine explosion in the area on Sunday in which six people — four of them children — were killed and five injured.

Confirming that the discussions would be taking place "shortly" a SA Defence Force spokesman said in Pretoria today this meant a "channel between the SADF commanding officer in the northern Transvaal and his equivalent on the Zimbabwe side is being created."

According to earlier reports quoting sources in Harare today, the talks were expected to start later today.

The SADF spokesman said the channel of communication between military commanders from the two countries "is the result of a note which was sent to Zimbabwe throught the diplomatic channel, as was announced by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha."

He gave no further details of the discussions which were to take place.

Meeting of Release Mandela Campaign Banned

MB131823 Johannesburg Television Service in English
1700 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] The acting divisional commissioner of police for Soweto, Brigadier Oosthuizen, has banned a meeting which was to be held at the Jabavu Youth Center in Soweto on Monday. In terms of the emergency regulations, he also prohibited the meeting from taking place at any other place in the magisterial districts of Johannesburg and Roodepoort from 6 o'clock tomorrow morning until 6 o'clock on Tuesday morning.

The meeting was organized by the Release Mandela Committee, an affiliate of the United Democratic Front.

CBS News Team Barred From Cape Area for 2 Months

MB161656 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1638 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Cape Town, Dec 16, SAPA — Three television newsmen who went into Myanga today to film a "Christmas of concern" meeting at the stadium there have been barred from Guguletu, Nyanga, New and Old Crossroads and KTC for two months.

The presence of Mr Chris Everson, Mr John Rubython and Mr Ken Geraghty of CBS news in these areas was "considered to be undesirable with a view to the maintenance of public order and security," the orders said.

They were made in terms of powers vested in the police by Section 9 of the black (urban areas) consolidated act of 1945.

The penalty for contravening such an order is a fine not exceeding R500, or six months imprisonment, or both.

Mr Everson said security forces had seen them on the way to and at the stadium before they began filming.

They tried to hide in the stadium toilets, but police found them.

"We agreed to go to Manenberg police station, to phone the liaison officer. We were not allowed to phone, and remained there for three hours until discharged with orders," Mr Everson said.

Their car was searched, and blank video tapes and pre-recorded audio tapes from the car were briefly confiscated.

"At one stage there was talk of searching our homes," Mr Everson said.

The three were uncertain whether they had been under arrest, but said they had not been free to leave until issued with the orders.

"The ban is to me, but there is nothing new about the rest," Mr Everson said.

"It must be at least the tenth time something like this has happened to me."

Lieutenant Attie Laubscher, police liaison officer for the Western Province, said the permit system had fallen away, but police did like pressmen to ask permission before they went into townships.

He warned the three to obey the orders.

Poll Finds More Concern Over Jobs Than Inflation

MB130921 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0912 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 13, SAPA — Unemployment was a more serious threat to South African society than inflation, according to two out of three urban whites. This is the finding of a recent Gallup poll, conducted by the Markinor Reasearch Group among 1,000 white adults living in the metropolitan areas.

Asked whether the government should concentrate on reducing the rate of inflation or the level of unemployment — since there is often a trade-off between the two — 69 per cent said unemployment was the more urgent priority.

Afrikaners (71 per cent) are slightly more concerned about unemployment than their English-speaking counterparts (67 per cent) and the residents of Cape Town (72 per cent) are more concerned than those in Durban and the PWV [Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vaal] area (both 68 per cent).

Church Leaders Call for Restraint at Christmas

MB131925 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1700 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] National church leaders have welcomed a call for restraint at Christmas this year in view of the present crisis in the country, and there have been renewed calls to extend candlelight vigils on a nightly basis till Christmas Day. Rafik Rohan reports:

[Rohan] The Anglican bishop of Cape Town, the Most Reverend Phillip Russell, has called on people round the country to celebrate Christmas in a subdued manner due to the crisis in the country. He said that this was not a year of jolly Father Christmases and alcohol-boosted parties, and that the gesture should be of solidarity with victims of apartheid.

The general secretary of the South African Council of Churches [SACC], Dr Beyers Naude, says that the SACC backs the call and extended a further call for a total amnesty of detainees over Christmas and New Year. The call has also received support from the Roman Catholic, the Methodist, and the Presbyterian churches.

In another development, the South African Council of Catholic Laity says that the regular Wednesday evening candlelight vigil should be observed every evening from this Monday till Christmas day.

Police Report Unrest Situation, Arrests

17 Dec Morning Report

MB170729 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0728 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 17, SAPA — Following is police situation report on unrest around the country to 8 am today. Issued by the public relations division of the SAP:

Minor incidents of stonethrowing and illegal gatherings occurred in the black residential areas of the Eastern Cape, Beaufort West, George and on the West Rand yesterday afternoon and early evening.

More serious unrest related acts occurred in Soweto, the Western Cape and Umlazi near Durban.

One black woman of 57 years and two girls of seven and four years respectively, were injured when a hand grenade thrown into a private home at Tladi exploded. Extensive damage was also caused to the house.

In other incidents in Soweto, a private vehicle was set alight and destroyed while the police also arrested a youth in a stonethrowing incident.

In the Western Cape, the police fired birdshot at a group of about 300 stonethrowers. One youth was slightly wounded and after receiving medical treatment, arrested. This incident occurred at Khayalitsha.

At Nyanga, police arrested two black men during stonethrowing incidents.

Blacks in Guguletu placed obstructions in the road and stoned policemen who were trying to remove these [illegible] police fired shotgun rounds, wounding a black [illegible] medically treated before being arrested.

In four other incidents police had to fire shotgun rounds to disperse stonethrowing groups. No injuries were reported.

In the Umlazi black residential area near Durban an explosion caused by a limpet mine, occurred at a bus depot at 3 am today. First reports indicate that a number of buses were damaged in the explosion. The police are investigating.

In the Boland, a police patrol fired shots at a group of blacks who were trying to set fire to a sub-station in the Mbekweni township East Paarl. In a second incident in which police vehicles were stoned, tear smoke was used to disperse the stonethrowers. One youth was arrested.

At Soshanguve near Pretoria, a black ambulance driver fired shots when he was interfered with and intimidated by a group of blacks. No injuries were reported. In another incident, a private house was set on fire and extensively damaged. In the New Brighton black residential area near Noupoort, arsonists destroyed a home after setting it on fire.

UDF Supporters, Police Clash

MB160649 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] A large crowd of blacks clashed with the police in Durban yesterday afternoon after having attended a UDF [United Democratic Front] meeting in the Curry's Fountain sports stadium where a campaign was started for the release of Nelson Mandela and other prisoners and detainees.

A police spokesman said police vehicles and PUTCO [Public Utility Transport Corporation] buses were stoned and a number of shop windows smashed in White Road. Police reinforcements and defense force units were summoned and the rioters were dispersed with quirts and tear smoke. No serious injuries were reported.

Security Forces Patrol Athlone
MB170509 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2332 G.IT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Cape Town. Dec 16, SAPA — A large contingent of security force personnel and vehicles patrolled Athlone in Cape Town tonight where a prohibited carols by candlelight service was to have been held.

A burning barricade was erected in Belgravia Road, about 200m from the security force command post at about 8.30 pm. Soon after, a crowd began gathering outside a road house in the area as police Casspirs and army buffels made repeated sweeps through the area. When they neared the roadhouse patrons leant on their hooters and sent up a cacophony of noise.

At 9.50 pm a barricade of burning tyres and metal railings was erected across Belgravia Road outside the roadhouse, and five minutes later an army buffel arrived. A petrol bomb was thrown at it, and teargas was fired into the fleeing crowd.

Earlier, at least four Casspirs and about five buffel armoured vehicles were seen in Thornton Road, Athlone, outside the City Park Stadium where the service was to have been held. The organisers of the service appealed to people who had planned to attend not to do so for their own safety.

Police outside the stadium ordered people to leave and warned residents standing near the stadium to disperse.

Moutse Incorporation
MB161956 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1900 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] There has been violence in an area scheduled for incorporation into the KwaNdebele homeland. Police are reported to have fought a running battle with youths in Moutse, where a number of people opposed plans for incorporation.

The trouble began when youths burned down the shops of two alleged collaborators and stoned a bus.

Police made extensive use of teargas to disperse crowds of stone-throwers.

There has also been a meeting of about 1,000 people at the royal kraal of a local chief. At the meeting were members of the Lebowa parliament, traditional chiefs, and youths.

Leaders in Moutse have warned for months that the plan to incorporate the area into KwaNdebele will lead to bloodshed.

Soweto Deaths Over Weekend
MB170938 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0935 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Soweto, Dec 17, SAPA — A couple who were burnt to death were among 18 people murdered in the sprawling black township of Soweto at the weekend.

Col John Beeslaar, Soweto CID [Criminal Investigation Division] spokesman, said Mrs Mchato Nhlapo, 50, and Mr Mbuti Nhlapo, 59, died after a group of people poured petrol on their house and set it alight. The group had apparently been looking for a man they said was a murder suspect.

In other crime incidents in Soweto at the weekend:

— A total of 20 women were raped. Twelve people were arrested in connection with nine of the incidents;

— Five cases of attempted murder were reported;

— Seven armed robberies were reported; and

— Twenty cars were stolen.

Police also reported cases of thefts from cars and added six businesses and 15 houses were broken into. The motor vehicles squad recovered 50 stolen cars.

A total of 80 shebeen owners were arrested for dealing illegally in liquor. Two people were arrested for dealing in mandrax and another two for dealing in dagga [marijuana]. Police recovered 35kg of dagga.

ZIMBABWE

ANC Denial of Country Providing Bases Reported
MB170732 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] The ANC has appealed to the international community to step up its assistance to the Frontline States, especially Zimbabwe, who is under threat of a military attack from racist South Africa.

In his speech to mark the ANC [word indistinct] day yesterday, one of the organization's top executives Comrade (Reggie Masupa), denied claims from the Pretoria regime that Zimbabwe provides bases for the Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation] military wing.

He stressed that he wants to make it catagorically clear the Zimbabwe has no bases for the ANC, but his people are fighting the regime from inside the country.

In the meantime, latest reports from the Zambian capital, Lusaka, say the ANC yesterday claimed responsibility for planting the landmine which killed six whites and injured five others last Sunday night in the Messina area.

An ANC spokesman, Comrade (Frans Sebina), said it was one of the many landmines planted by his organization's youths operating within South Africa. He said some of them (?were) reported last month killing a black farm worker and injuring several other people.

A South African army spokesman claimed the blast occurred in the area where others were discovered 3 weeks ago, and that guerrillas who had laid the mines had (?crossed over the Limpopo) and over to Zimbabwe.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has denied that Zimbabwe allows its territory to be used as a springboard for guerrilla activities.